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1902-1913

THE UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY

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1904/02-12/13



P419R

THE

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Forty-fifth Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1902

EDWARD HINE & CO., PRINTERS

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA

**DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.**

John S. Lee	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer.....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard.....	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold.....	1884 " 1886
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells	1886 " date
Dan F. Raum	1886 " 1889
Thos. F. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine	1890 " date
Edward Hine	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " 1902
Y8 Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
106111 Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
66 Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead.....	1897 " 1900
James P. Nailon	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington	1898 " date
Max Newman	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1899 " 1902
John E. Keene	1900 " date
James M. Quinn.....	1900 " date
Alexander G. Tyng.....	1902
Frank J. Quinn.. ..	1902

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1902-1903.

THOMAS M. MCILVAINE, 516 Main Street.....	Term expires	1903
JOHN E. KEENE, 301 South Jefferson Ave.....	" "	1903
JAMES M. QUINN, Chamber of Commerce.....	" "	1903
BERNARD CREMER, German-American National Bank	" "	1904
HENRY W. WELLS, 325 Main Street.....	" "	1904
NICHOLAS E. WORTHINGTON, Circuit Court, Court House.	" "	1904
ROBERT C. GRIER, Chamber of Commerce	" "	1905
ALEXANDER G. TYNG, Chamber of Commerce.....	" "	1905
FRANK J. QUINN, Niagara Building.....	" "	1905

OFFICERS.

N. E. WORTHINGTON.....	<i>President</i>
T. M. MCILVAINE	<i>Vice-President</i>
B. CREMER	<i>Secretary</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Keene, Cremer, Tyng.

Books—Wells, Quinn, Quinn.

Executive—Worthington (*ex-officio*), McIlvaine, Grier.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. WILLCOX—*Librarian*.

Assistants:

ELIZABETH T. ELLIS—*Reference Librarian*.

ANNA L. ARCHER—*Cataloguer*.

John M. Youngman, ^a	Louise L. Booth,
Harold H. Willcox, ^b	Elizabeth Bontjes,
Helen M. Ballard,	John H. Radley, ^d
Fred. J. Huenken, ^c	Dallas R. Sweney, ^e
Margaret M. McIlvaine. ^f	

In the Bindery:

Richard J. Cross,	Ruth McKenzie,	Rachel Garrabrant,
Edith A. Quinn,	Margaret A. Theena.	

Evening Attendant—Samuel W. Dodge.

Engineer { John J. Steiger,^g
George A. Robison.^h

Janitress { Mrs. Mary E. Theena,ⁱ
Mrs. Mary Fogle.^j

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

^a Until Oct. 31; ^b Nov., Dec., Jan.; ^c until Nov. 15; ^d from Dec. 15; ^e from Jan. 15; ^f from Feb. 1; ^g to Jan. 15; ^h from Jan. 15; ⁱ to March 1; ^j from March 1.

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Report of the Directors.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Peoria:

Herewith is transmitted the financial and statistical report of Mr. E. S. Willcox, Librarian, for the past year, which report is approved and made a part of the annual report of the Board of Directors required by law to be transmitted to your body.

The test of the utility of a well selected public library is the number of volumes annually issued. Tried by this test, the Peoria Public Library shows a healthy, yearly increase.

Reference to former reports verifies this statement as will be seen from the following statistics expressed in thousands:

Volumes issued for year ending in	1892.....	89,000
" " " " " "	1893.....	96,000
" " " " " "	1894.....	119,000
" " " " " "	1895.....	136,000
" " " " " "	1896.....	139,000
" " " " " "	1897.....	138,000
" " " " " "	1898.....	161,000
" " " " " "	1899.....	152,000
" " " " " "	1900.....	167,000
" " " " " "	1901.....	174,000
" " " " " "	1902.....	183,000

It is the policy of the present Board of Directors to make the Library as attractive to the general public as is practical with a prudent and liberal management, believing that thereby the membership will be increased and its usefulness promoted. To this end changes have been made in the reading room that add largely to the number of volumes to which members have free access. Hereafter all new books which are adapted to general circulation will be placed for a reasonable time upon the open shelves. It is believed that the knowledge that this is done, and that as new publications are purchased they can be seen, handled, examined and selected, will do much to increase public interest in the Library. It is the People's Library, and its management should be such as to make that fact apparent to the people and

appreciated by them. A gradual evolution in the management of public libraries from the conservative policy which hid books in secluded alcoves, to be seen only upon request made to some guardian entrenched behind a counter as a barricade, is taking place and is justified both by common sense and by experience.

In the report of the Cleveland Library made December, 1901, after referring to the children's department, it is said:

"This warm personal interest in the work is of no less value in other departments. The opportunity for this friendly interest in the needs of readers and helpfulness in meeting them is greatly increased by the freedom of access to the books which is given in all departments of the Main Library and in the branches. The ideal library permits the least possible machinery and routine to interfere between its readers and the books, and furnishes intelligent help in reaching them and their contents. This ideal the Cleveland Library is trying to reach in all departments."

In the report of the Providence Library for the same year it is said:

"The reader's opportunity for making an intelligent choice of the books he wishes to take home with him is by no means limited to the various catalogues and bulletins accessible in the building. The large number of open shelf exhibits throughout the building contribute in a marked degree to this end."

And again in speaking of the free access to new books, it is said:

"The privilege of examining these books has been greatly appreciated by the readers,"

In many libraries a children's department is maintained, under the supervision of a competent librarian's assistant, who advises and aids in the selection of suitable books for young persons. The rapid increase of population in our city, with the increasing number of juveniles who come to the general reading room, brings before the Board the question of the advisability of establishing such a department in our Library. It will receive due consideration during the coming year, and if thought advisable such a department will be established.

Harmony and hearty concert of action, on the part of all connected with the administration of the Library, is essential to the full measure of its usefulness. That this full measure may be secured is the sole aim and purpose of this Board.

N. E. WORTHINGTON, *President.*

Report of Librarian.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg leave to present the Librarian's report of the Peoria Public Library for the library year ending May 31, 1902, the twenty-second annual report of the Public Library and the forty-fifth annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in 1855.

Our statistics for the year, which will be found tabulated at the end of this report and to which I refer for more explicit details, show a gratifying and continuous growth during the last twelve months, in the enlarged membership, in the number of volumes added and in the home circulation.

Our membership is now 8068, an increase of 549 over that of one year ago and one to every $7\frac{1}{2}$ of our population. As all memberships with us expire at the end of two years these may be presumed to be with very few exceptions, all active members and patrons of the Library.

The number of volumes added during the year was 4,700, making a total of books now in actual use 75,863, or with duplicates not in use 78,090. If to this we add our large and valuable collection of pamphlets, the grand total amounts to 83,504 volumes.

Our home circulation for the year, not counting the large number of books consulted in the library, was 183,500, an increase of 8,555 over that of the preceding year and the largest ever yet attained.

Of our total issues 130,348 volumes, or 71 per cent. were fiction, adult and juvenile— $44\frac{6}{10}$ adult and $26\frac{4}{10}$ juvenile—and 53,152 volumes, or 29 per cent. were non-fiction—history, biography, science, art, literary miscellany, etc.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

In a number of our public schools farthest removed from the centre of the city we place at the beginning of the school year, in September, carefully selected libraries of 200 to 400 volumes each,

which are issued to the pupils under the same rules and regulations as prevail in the central library. Two new schools were added to our list this last year, the Columbia and the Glen Oak in the new North Peoria addition to the city, making eleven in all.

Our circulation through these eleven schools this last year was 31,729 volumes, an increase of 37 per cent. over that of the preceding year, and according to classification as follows, viz:

Literature.....	1,836 vols.
Science, art, religion.....	5,170 "
History, biography, travels.....	10,219 "
Fiction, fairy tales, legends	14,504 "
<hr/>	
A total of	31,729 "

Or $17\frac{29}{100}$ per cent. of our total issues.

THE BINDERY.

In our bindery we employ regularly one foreman and four young women. The total number of books bound, rebound and repaired during the year, including 1498 repaired by desk assistant, was 5940 as against 6572 the year before, at a cost for labor of \$2,138.72 as against \$1,951.79 the year before.

During the last ten years there have been worn out and withdrawn 5,875 volumes, mostly novels which had been once rebound, all the rebinding they would bear with the poor quality of book paper now given us.

INVENTORY.

Our biennial inventory just taken shows 113 volumes missing in the two years. A few of these may yet turn up as misplaced and a few more may be brought back and furtively restored to the shelves, but still the actual loss remains a lamentable fact.

THE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

A gratifying feature of our work is the constantly growing use of our reference department, by teachers and pupils of the High School, Spalding Institute, Bradley Polytechnic Institute, by the numerous literary and reading clubs of our city and by the public generally. Only those persons who are directly acquainted with what we are doing in this line every day, are able to form any just estimate of the value to our city of our large, well equipped reference library.

AMONG THE IMPORTANT PURCHASES DURING THE YEAR ARE:

Chittenden. American Fur Trade, 3 vols.
 Richards. Memorial Atlas of Ireland.
 Hanna. The Scotch Irish, 2 vols.
 Monette. Valley of the Mississippi, 1846. 2 vols.
 Fitch. Annals of the Army of the Cumberland.
 Versailles Historical Series, 18 vols.
 Napoleon's Memoirs, dictated to Gourgaud and Montholon, 1823. 5 vols.
 Bunker. Long Island genealogies.
 World's best music: vocal and instrumental, 8 vols.
 Poe's complete works, Crowell ed., 17 vols.
 Elizabeth Barrett Browning's complete works, Coxhoe ed., 6 vols.
 Shakespeare's complete works, International ed., 13 vols.
 Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder. 1884-1895. 8 vols.
 Encyclopædic Dictionary, 6 vols.
 Moulton. Library of Literary Criticism, 4 vols.
 National Educational Association. Journal of proceedings, 1884-1898, 16 vols.
 Masterpieces of Ancient and Modern Literature, 20 vols.
 New Americanized Encyclopædia Britannica, 15 vols.
 Harper's Encyclopædia of United States History, 10 vols.
 American and English Encyclopædia of Law, 52 vols. (Not yet completed.)
 Harper's Young People, complete set, 1879-1897.
 William and Mary College Quarterly, 1892-1900.
 Journal of the Society for psychical research, 1885-1892.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY, 1901-'02.

From Mrs. Samuel White, 56 vols., miscellaneous.
 Marshall Field, Field Genealogy, by Pierce. 2 vols.
 Jullius Winter, Bibliothek der Unterhaltung und des Wissens, 1901. 13 vols.
 R. W. Kempshall, four large photographs of the Buffalo statuary at the Colosseum.
 C. W. Shields, "The Reformer of Geneva," by C. W. Shields.
 W. E. Phelps (formerly of Elmwood), Reports and U. S. documents. 14 vols.
 Mrs. Sarah P. Howe, Appleton's Annual Cyclopedia, 1861-1883, vols. 1-23;
 Bayard Taylor's Works, 10 vols.; Poems of Places, ed. by Longfellow, 26 vols.;
 Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, original designs by Rheid; Appleton's Art Journal, 1878; Album of Art Treasures—galleries of London, St. Petersburg, Madrid, Venice, Berlin, Florence, the Louvre, ten pictures in each case; China, illus.; Italy, illus. Total, 70 vols.

From the local papers of our city we receive two copies of each issue regularly, one for our reading room and one for binding; from the Evening Journal the printing of our quarterly list of new books, and from the Galesburg Evening Mail one copy daily.

OUR NEEDS.

For ten years now, that is, since January, 1892, the annual appropriation made by our city council towards the support of

the public library has stood at the sum of \$15,000, based on the statutory provision of two mills on the dollar on the assessed valuation then of \$7,500,000 taxable property in the city. That valuation now is over \$10,000,000.

Meanwhile the population of our city, according to the U. S. census, has grown from 41,024 in 1890 to 56,100 in 1900, a gain of $36\frac{7}{10}$ per cent. and the expansion in the use of the library has grown still more rapidly.

Our active, two-year membership May 31, 1892, was 4,440 and is now 8,068, an increase of $81\frac{7}{10}$ per cent., and our home issues of books has grown from 89,644 ten years ago to 183,500 this last year, an increase of $104\frac{7}{10}$ per cent.

In 1892 we had a library of 42,306 volumes, in 1902, 75,863 volumes, a gain of $79\frac{3}{10}$ per cent.

Of libraries placed in schools at a distance from the central library and to be issued from them, we had in 1892 one of 71 volumes, an experiment in the Franklin school, we have now 3,500 volumes deposited at the beginning of the school year in eleven different schools, showing a circulation last year from those schools of 31,729 volumes. The new Harrison school, the twelfth, will have to be provided for in the fall.

It need hardly be said that this showing means a great deal more of hard work by your library force, crowding us to the limit of our possibilities, for in our library service we have no more helpers than in 1892 and our salary item for that service was last year only \$159.71 greater than in 1893.

It is plain also with our greatly enlarged membership, our still greater increase of issues and the consequent wear and tear of books that we need more money to meet the demand for new books than we needed ten years ago, and more to replace standard books worn out by constant use.

In the number and character of volumes it possesses, its comparative completeness in all departments of human inquiry, in its admirable catalogue and in its efficiency in serving our public the Peoria Public Library is a credit to our city, our one all-embracing educational institution, the people's university. And besides, being the largest collection of books in Central Illinois, it has to supply to a considerable extent the scholarly needs of adjacent towns.

Larger cities have many and differently planned libraries. Chicago, for example, has its Public Library, its Newberry Library, John Crerar Library, Historical Library and University Library besides theological, medical and law libraries, in one or another of which scholars may find what they seek. Our library, according to its means, has to perform the functions of all these different specialized libraries and seek to assemble here in the various departments of philosophy, science, art, history and current periodicals a fair representation at least of the best thought of past and present times. It must keep even pace in dignity with the growth in numbers and wealth of this central metropolis of our State.

The most important use a free library serves lies in supplying good reading to the mass of people who without it would go through life in complete ignorance of the great world of books, ignorant of the delightful enjoyment they provide, the enlarged vision, the acquaintance with other men and other times and the opportunity for self-culture.

If in the majority of cases the taste for books is created through the reading of fiction let us then be thankful so far for fiction. There are worse ways of spending idle hours than in reading good stories. A taste for reading is the great thing. That taste once awakened will improve, and as our young people grow older and learn more of the world, biography, history, science, art and literature stand ready to invite them into broader fields, and assist them to become intelligent members of society and useful citizens in the State.

It is no light responsibility resting on library boards, that of building up and administering a great free library along the best lines; for on the efficiency of the public library of to-day in meeting the demands made on it, in providing the latest and best literature in the whole range of intellectual activity, and in serving the public promptly, intelligently and sympathetically—in a word, in keeping the library alive and up-to-date—depends largely whether or not our young people, and our older ones as well, become cultivated men and women.

It is, therefore, with no hesitation that we lay our wants before the always generous city council of our prosperous and growing city.

With thanks to the Board of Directors for their continued confidence and support and to each one of my assistants in all departments, for faithful work performed, I am

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX,

Librarian.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1901-1902.

RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation	\$15,746.37
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1901	34.50
Rent	800.00
Fines	643.59
Books damaged and paid for	8.85
Books lost and paid for	11.89
Book sold .....	.96
Extra books loaned	20.50
Duplicate cards issued	19.40
Reserve postal cards	10.59
Memberships	14.50
Catalogues sold	33.40
Waste paper sold	5.85
	<hr/> \$17,350.40

EXPENDITURES.

Books	\$ 4,096.10
Periodicals	787.00
Stationery	233.53
Salaries	5,700.08
Janitor service	1,074.75
Binding (labor)	2,138.72
Binding (materials)	280.25
Tools and machinery	32.00
Fuel	419.57
Light	987.30
Expense	493.90
Furniture and fixtures	239.07
Improvement	31.90
Supplies	2.25
Reserve fund	800.00
Desk receipts on hand June 31, 1902	33.98
	<hr/> \$17,350.40

MEMBERSHIP.

Memberships in force June 1, 1901	7,519
Memberships issued during the year, good for two years	4,232
Total	<u>11,751</u>
Memberships expired during the year	3,683
Memberships in force May 31, 1902	<u>8,068</u>

CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

June 1, 1901—

Books in circulation	72,133 vols.	
Duplicates not in use		2,217 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated)		4,561 "

Losses—

Lost and paid for	21 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn	949 "	
Total losses		970 vols.

71,163 vols.

Additions—

By purchase	3,862 vols.	
By donation	426 "	
By periodicals bound	412 "	
Total additions		4,700 vols.
Total books in circulation ..		75,863 vols.
Duplicates not in use	2,227 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated)	5,414 "	7,641 vols.
Total contents May 31, 1902.		<u>83,504 vols.</u>

Number of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading room—

Dailies	14
Weeklies	51
Bi-weeklies	8
Monthlies	160
Bi-monthlies	12
Quarterlies	44
	<u>289</u>
Duplicates in circulation	42
Total	<u>331</u>

NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED.		Per Cent.
Philosophy	1,968	1.07
Theology	1,441	.78
Social and political science	1,776	.97
Natural science and useful arts	11,853	6.46
Fine arts, poetry and music	3,545	1.93
Fiction	81,836	44.60
Juvenile fiction	48,512	26.44
Literary miscellany	5,997	3.27
History and travel	20,633	11.24
Cyclopædias and periodicals	5,939	3.24
	183,500	100.00
Of the above were issued at the library	151,771	
" " " " " " " schools	31,729	
	183,500	
Highest issue on any week day during 1901-1902	Mar. 1, 1902, 1,227 vols.	
Lowest " " " " " " " "	Sept. 11, 1901, 202 vols.	

DELINQUENTS.

Books kept overtime during the year	11,809
Number of fine notices sent	1,295
" " notices for books reserved	745

SCHOOL ISSUE.

	Garfield	Sumner	Douglas	Webster	Blaine	Whittier	Lee	Franklin	Columbia	Glen Oak	Total
Literature	895	156	305	67	112	145	88	47	4	7	1,836
Science, art, religion	1,615	1,209	647	635	436	132	322	89	6	79	5,170
History, biography, travel	2,745	1,300	1,472	1,146	852	1,014	1,010	509	48	123	10,219
Fiction, fairy tales	3,488	1,654	1,820	2,892	1,311	1,174	1,017	932	451	265	14,504
Total	8,743	4,319	4,244	4,240	2,711	2,465	2,447	1,577	509	474	31,729

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1901, the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the Library, May 31, 1902:

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1901	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. volumes added 1901-1902	Total volumes in Library May 31, 1902	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy	1,115		3	1,112	74	1,186	1.56
Theology	2,796		1	2,795	122	2,917	3.84
Social and political sciences	9,644	1		9,643	481	10,124	13.34
Natural sciences and useful arts	8,242	1	4	8,237	412	8,649	11.40
Fine arts and poetry	4,314		6	4,308	162	4,470	5.89
Vocal and instrumental music	428			428	9	437	.58
Fiction	11,043	9	482	10,602	1,018	11,620	15.32
Juvenile literature	8,331	7	486	7,838	1,256	9,094	11.99
Literary miscellany	5,422	2	10	5,410	402	5,812	7.66
History and travel	13,224		6	13,218	487	13,705	18.07
Cyclopædias and periodicals	7,574	1	1	7,572	277	7,849	10.35
Total	72,133	21	949	71,163	4,700	75,863	100.00

CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English	4,577
German	107
French	7
Vocal and instrumental music	9

Total..... 4,700

Purchased	3,862
Donations catalogued	426
Periodicals bound.....	412

Total..... 4,700

BINDERY.

Books bound	755
Newspapers bound	28
Books rebound	2,689
Books repaired	949
Portfolios made	21

Total..... 4,442

48°	32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	f°	Total
1	117	54	813	1,623	676	103	85	3,472
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes								970

Total..... 4,442

Books repaired by desk assistant	1,498
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Total..... 5,940

Peoria Public Library catalogues bound in paper.....	200
Current periodicals covered	503
Members' cards folded and pasted.....	9,717

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
COUNTY OF PEORIA. } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of June, A.D. 1902, by
E. S. Willcox, Librarian.

LEWIS B. HOWE, *Notary Public.*

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian.*

[SEAL.]

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TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Forty-sixth Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1903

**DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.**

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James Millard.....	1884 " 1886
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Robert C. Grier	1884 " date
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James M. Quinn.....	1900 " date
Alexander G. Tyng.....	1902 " date
Frank J. Quinn.....	1902 " date

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1903-1904.

BERNARD CREMER, German-American National Bank	Term expires	1904
HENRY W. WELLS, 325 Main St.....	" "	1904
NICHOLAS E. WORTHINGTON, Circuit Court, Court House..	" "	1904
ROBERT C. GRIER, Chamber of Commerce.....	" "	1905
ALEXANDER G. TYNG, Chamber of Commerce	" "	1905
FRANK J. QUINN, 101 S. Jefferson Ave	" "	1905
THOMAS M. MCILVAINE, 516 Main Street	" "	1906
JOHN E. KEENE, 301 South Jefferson Ave.....	" "	1906
JAMES M. QUINN, Chamber of Commerce	" "	1906

OFFICERS.

N. E. WORTHINGTON.....	<i>President</i>
T. M. MCILVAINE	<i>Vice-President</i>
B. CREMER	<i>Secretary</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Keene, Cremer, Tyng.

Books—Wells, Quinn, Quinn.

Executive—Worthington (*ex-officio*), McIlvaine, Grier.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. WILLCOX—*Librarian*.

Assistants :

ELIZABETH T. ELLIS—*Reference Librarian*.

ANNA L. ARCHER—*Cataloguer*.

Helen M. Ballard,

John H. Radley,^a

Louise L. Booth,

Dallas R. Sweney,

Elizabeth Bontjes,

Margaret M. McIlvaine,

Raymond A. Wheeler.^b

In the Bindery :

Richard J. Cross,

Ruth McKenzie,

Rachel Garrabrant,

Edith A. Quinn,^c

Margaret A. Theena,

Evening Attendant—N. M. McLaughlin.

Engineer—George A. Robison.

Janitress—Mrs. Mary Fogle.

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays, October 1, to June 1, from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

^a Three months; ^b occasionally; ^c 16 months.

Report of the Directors.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Peoria:

In pursuance of the requirement of the statute authorizing public libraries, the Directors of the Peoria Public Library herewith present their annual financial and statistical report. It has been compiled by the Librarian, and is believed to be full and accurate.

The library is aiding the work of popular education both in the schools to which school libraries are furnished and among the people who avail themselves of its advantages.

In the last annual report it was said: "It is the policy of the present Board of Directors to make the library as attractive to the general public as is practical with a prudent and liberal management, believing that thereby its membership will be increased and its usefulness promoted.

"Hereafter, all new books which are adapted to general circulation will be placed for a reasonable time upon the open shelves. It is believed that the knowledge that this is done, and that as new publications are purchased they can be seen, handled, examined and selected, will do much to increase public interest in the library. It is the people's library, and its management should be such as to make that fact apparent to the people."

This policy will be continued and enforced in the future. Fears were entertained by some that free access to books on the shelves would result in the loss of many volumes by theft or carelessness. The test of experiment has proved, that while some loss may occasionally occur, the greater attraction given to the public by allowing books to be seen on the shelves, handled, tasted and examined, more than compensates for any occasional loss.

In the annual report for the year 1897 it was said: "We wish to popularize. Your Directors are ready to drop old established ways and adopt improvements and new ways; are not wedded to ideas and plans that do not satisfy or please the public.

"In visiting the library, if there is an air of constraint or discipline, we wish to displace it with a home feeling. We can trust to good, common sense and a natural tendency of propriety on all occasions for a proper standard of library good manners. Pleasant anticipations should always accompany a visit to the library. Attention and faithful service are sure to gain the respect of all who enter our doors."

This statement still expresses the desire and purpose of the Board.

The management of a public library, as required by law, is "to render the use of the library and reading room of the greatest benefit to the greatest number."

The present Board of Directors, with the aid of those directly in charge of the books and building, will keep this purpose in view, and will endeavor to carry it to a successful completion.

N. E. WORTHINGTON, *President.*

Report of the Librarian.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library:

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg leave to present the Librarian's report of the Peoria Public Library for the library year ending May 31, 1903,—the twenty-third annual report of the Public Library and the forty-sixth annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in 1855.

Our statistics for the year, to which I refer for more explicit details, will be found at the end of this report. They show a gratifying growth during the last twelve months, in the enlarged membership and in the number of volumes added, but a slight falling off in the home circulation.

MEMBERSHIP.

Our membership is now 8,226 as compared with 8,068 one year ago. As all memberships expire at the end of two years, these may be presumed to be, with very few exceptions, all active members.

CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

The number of volumes added to the library during the year was 4,200, which, making deduction for books lost and paid for (19), or worn out and withdrawn (707), makes a total of books now in actual use, 79,337, or, with duplicates not in use, 81,576. If to this amount be added our large and valuable collection of pamphlets, the grand total amounts to 87,777.

HOME CIRCULATION.

Our home circulation for the year, not counting the constantly increasing number of books consulted in the library, was 182,900—a slight falling off of 600 volumes from that of the preceding year.

Of our total issues, 132,760 volumes, or $72\frac{59}{100}$ per cent., were fiction— $45\frac{42}{100}$ per cent. adult and $27\frac{17}{100}$ per cent. juvenile—and 50,140 volumes, or $27\frac{41}{100}$ per cent., non-fiction, history, biography, science; art, literary miscellany, etc.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

We have continued during the year our practice of placing a carefully selected library of from 300 to 500 volumes each in eleven of our public schools farthest from the center of the city, and, late in the season, we opened at No. 2000 South Washington street a separate branch library to accommodate families in that part of the city. The short period of two months since this library was opened is hardly enough to determine how it is going to be appreciated, but so far it has been patronized only by the children who were already provided for in the public schools near.

In all our school libraries, books are issued according to the same rules and regulations as prevail in the central library and under the intelligent supervision of the respective teachers of each grade. In addition, therefore, to the juvenile department of our main library near the center of the city, we have, for all practical purposes, eleven well equipped children's rooms scattered over the city to its extreme limits, in close and sympathetic relation with our public school system where they naturally belong.

Our circulation through these branch libraries this year was 31,504 volumes, or 225 volumes less than that of the preceding year, and, according to classification, as follows, viz:

Literature	1,627 vols.
Science, art, religion	3,958 "
History, biography, travels	9,419 "
Fiction, fairy tales	16,500 "

A total of.....31,504 vols.

Or $17\frac{22}{100}$ per cent. of our total issue.

BOOKS RESERVED ON REQUEST.

No public library has the means to supply all the popular novels promptly as called for, and it would not be wise to do so if it had the means; it would be a foolish waste of money. It would result in loading up the shelves with many duplicate volumes of no permanent value.

To satisfy this temporary demand for the last new novel, or for any book in especial demand, any person, by depositing two cents, may have his or her name entered in due order on a list

kept at the delivery desk, and, in regular order, is immediately notified by a printed postal card when the book is in and can be had.

It is not such an urgent matter to have any given book to-day, or to-morrow, even; our public is entirely satisfied if they are sure of having it within a short time, without favoritism shown to any one and without having to scramble for it at the desk.

There were 1,417 such reserve cards issued last year, and no person is allowed to have more than one book reserved at the same time.

This urgent demand for the last new novel is met in some libraries by purchasing an extra supply of new novels, not to go into the general stock, but kept separate and issued at a charge of 5 cents a week. On that plan our 1,417 reserved issues would have cost the public \$70.85, at 5 cents each, instead of \$28.34, at 2 cents each.

THE BINDERY.

The steadily improving quality of work done in our bindery shows very decidedly this year in the greater durability of the books bound. Last year's report showed 949 volumes, mostly rebound fiction, worn out and condemned, while for this year the number was 707, or 25 per cent. less. We find also that the dark green book cloth which we are now using for the covers adds strength to the binding, lends a more agreeable appearance to the book, and is, besides, not so easily soiled in handling.

REFERENCE WORK.

The constantly growing use of standard works in our reference department, by teachers and pupils of the High School, Spalding Institute, Bradley Polytechnic Institute, by the numerous literary and reading clubs of our city, by students in neighboring colleges, and by the general public is a gratifying feature of our work. Only those persons who are directly acquainted with what we are doing in this line every day are able to form any just estimate of the value to our city of our large, well-balanced collection of standard works.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY, 1902-1903.

We receive many annual reports and bulletins from other libraries which are duly acknowledged at the time. From the local papers of our city we receive two copies of each issue regularly, one for our reading room and one for binding; from the Evening Journal the printing of our quarterly list of new books, from the Herald-Transcript many notices and reviews of new books from week to week, and from the Galesburg Evening Mail, the Washington News, the Galesburg Labor News, the Canton Labor News, the Peoria Labor News and the Christian Science Sentinel their regular issues.

Following is a list of other noteworthy gifts:

Church of Christ, Scientist: Science and health with key to the Scriptures, Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, 3 copies.

W. M. Benton: Pharmaceutical Association. Proceedings, 1851-91, 38 vols.; Journal of Pharmacy, 1829-90, 61 vols.

Leslie D. Puterbaugh: Chancery Pleading and Practice, by S. D. Puterbaugh, fifth edition, revised 1902.

Rt. Rev. J. L. Spalding: Anthracite Coal Strike. Report of Commission.

J. S. Barkman: Dickens' works, 15 vols.; Thackeray's works, 10 vols.; Spectator, 4 vols.; Miscellaneous, 19 vols.

Miss Eliza Sloan: U. S. Land office warrant, original parchment, signed by Jas. Monroe, President.

C. P. Farrell: Framed lithograph of Col. R. G. Ingersoll's poem on the birth-place of Robert Burns.

J. C. Lindsay: History of Peoria County, 1880.

B. F. Blossom: Two framed copies of Magna Charta, one fac-simile.

R. H. Salter: Hendrick's Commercial Register, 1902.

Mr. Van Brunt Bergen: Bergen family genealogy.

James H. Hyde: Life of Henry Baldwin Hyde.

AMONG THE IMPORTANT PURCHASES DURING THE YEAR ARE THE FOLLOWING:

Complete Works	{	Tennyson, Riverside ed., 6 vols.
		Fiske, Standard library ed., 24 vols.
		Irving, Crowell ed., 10 vols.
		Hawthorne, Manse ed., 22 vols.

Woodrow Wilson's history of the American people, 5 vols.

Memoirs of the life of Scott, by Lockhart, 5 vols.

Lincoln's life, by Ida M. Tarbell, 4 vols.

Library of oratory, ed. by Depew, 15 vols.

- Japan and China, history, arts and literature, 12 vols.
 Four additional sets of Stoddard's lectures, 12 vols. each.
 New edition of Lord's Beacon lights of history, 15 vols.
 Briggs' International critical commentary, 9 vols.
 New Jersey as a colony and as a state, by Lee, 4 vols.
 Portrait biographical album of Peoria county, pub. in 1890.
 Encyclopædia Britannica, new volumes, 11 vols.
 New International encyclopædia, 10 vols. (not yet completed).
 Kelly's directory of merchants, manufacturers and shippers of the world, 1903.
 Thesaurus dictionary of the English language, ed. by March.
 Munsell's historical encyclopedia of Illinois and history of Peoria county, 2 vols.

LIST OF PERIODICALS TAKEN.

Gifts are designated by an asterisk. *

DAILY PAPERS.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chicago Chronicle. | *Peoria German Demokrat. |
| Chicago Record-Herald. | *Peoria Herald-Transcript. |
| Chicago Tribune. | *Peoria Journal. |
| *Congressional Record. | *Peoria Sonne. |
| New York Tribune. | *Peoria Volksfreund. |
| *Peoria Evening Star. | St. Louis Globe-Democrat. |

WEEKLIES.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Academy. | Illustrated London News. |
| American Architect. | Illustrirte Zeitung. |
| *American Banker. | Independent. |
| American Gardening. | Iron Age. |
| American Field. | Journal of Education. |
| Athenæum. | Knox Student. |
| Charities. | Leslie's Weekly. |
| Chicago Banker. | Life. |
| Christian Endeavor World. | Literary Digest. |
| *Christian Science Sentinel. | Little Chronicle. |
| Christian Work. | Living Age. |
| Chums. | London Times. |
| Dramatic Mirror. | Musical Courier. |
| Electrical World. | Musical Leader. |
| Engineering. | Nation. |
| Engineering and Mining Journal. | Nature. |
| Engineering Record. | Notes and Queries. |
| Fliegende Blätter. | Outlook. |
| Forest and Stream. | *Patent Office Gazette. |
| Graphic. | *Peoria Sonntags Post. |
| Harper's Weekly. | Public Opinion. |

Publishers' Weekly.
Punch.
Saturday Evening Post.
Saturday Review.
School Journal.
Science.
Scientific American.

Scientific American Supplement.
Spectator.
Sunday School Times.
*Union Signal.
Western Electrician.
Youth's Companion.

BI-WEEKLIES.

American Inventor.
*College Rambler.
Dial.
Engineer.

*Eureka College Pegasus.
*Gleanings in Bee Culture.
Vom Fels zum Meer.
Zur Guten Stunde.

MONTHLIES.

Amateur Work.
American Amateur Photographer.
American Boy.
American Engineering and R. R.
Journal.
American Naturalist.
American Poultry Journal.
Antiquary.
Architectural Record.
Arena.
Art Amateur.
Art Interchange.
Art Journal.
Astrophysical Journal.
Atlantic.
Biblia.
Biblical World.
Birds and all Nature.
Blackwood.
Bon Ton.
Bookman (Amer.).
Bookman (Eng.).
*Boston Public Library Bulletin.
Botanical Gazette.
Boy's Own Paper.
Brown Alumni Monthly.
Brush and Pencil.
Business World.
Carpentry and Building.
Cassier's Magazine.
Catholic World.
Century.

Chatterbox.
Chambers's Journal.
Chautauquan.
Child Garden.
*Choir Journal.
*Christian Science Herald.
*Christian Science Journal.
Commons.
Contemporary Review.
*Cook's American Traveller's Gazette.
Cornhill Magazine.
Correct English.
Cosmopolitan.
Country Life in America.
Craftsman.
Critic.
Cumulative Book Index.
Cumulative Index.
Current Literature.
Delineator.
Deutsche Rundschau.
Education.
Educational Review.
Engineering Magazine.
English Illustrated Magazine.
Entomological News.
Era.
Ethical Addresses.
Etude.
Everybody's Magazine.
Forestry and Irrigation.
Fortnightly Review.

- Frank Leslie's Monthly.
Gartenlaube.
Gentleman's Magazine.
Geographical Journal.
Girl's Own Paper.
Good Government.
Good Health.
Good Housekeeping.
Good Roads.
Handicraft.
Harper's Bazar.
Harper's Monthly.
*Herald of the Golden Age.
Home Science Magazine.
House Beautiful.
*Illinois Climate and Crop Service.
Index and Review.
Inland Architect.
Inlander.
International Studio.
Journal of Franklin Institute.
Journal of Society for Psychical Research.
Keramic Studio.
Kindergarten Magazine.
Knowledge.
Ladies' Home Journal.
Lamp.
Land of Sunshine.
Library Journal.
*Library News Letter.
Library World,
Lippincott.
Literary News.
Literary World.
Little Folks.
Little Journeys.
*Locomotive Firemen's Magazine.
McClure's Magazine.
Macmillan's Magazine.
Magazine of Art.
Masters in Art.
Masters in Music.
Mayflower.
*Michigan Alumnus.
Missionary Review of the World.
Monde Moderne.
Monthly Gazette of English Literature.
Monthly Review.
*Monthly Summary of Finance.
Monthly Weather Review.
Muse.
Municipal Engineering.
Munsey's Magazine.
Musical Record.
Musical Record and Review.
Musical Times.
Musician.
National Builder.
New England Magazine.
New Metropolitan.
*New York Public Library Bulletin.
Nineteenth Century.
North American Review.
Open Court.
Our Dumb Animals.
Out West.
Outing.
Overland.
Pacific Monthly.
Petermann's Mittheilungen.
Photo Era.
Power.
Phrenological Journal.
Physical Review.
Popular Astronomy.
Popular Science Monthly.
Public Libraries.
*Railroad Telegrapher.
*Railroad Trainmen's Journal.
Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature.
Reliable Poultry Journal.
Records of the Past.
Review of Reviews.
St. Nicholas.
School News.
Scientific American, Building Edition.
Scribner's Magazine.
*Spirit of Missions.
Steam Engineering.

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|--|---------------------------------|
| Success. | Velhagen und Klasing. |
| Sunset. | Westermann's Monatshefte. |
| Teacher's Institute. | Westminster Review. |
| *Traveler's Record. | Wilson's Photographic Magazine. |
| Typewriter and Phonographic World. | Work. |
| Ueber Land und Meer. | World To-day. |
| *U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, monthly list. | World's Work. |
| *U. S. Public Documents Catalogue. | Writer. |

BI-MONTHLIES.

- | | |
|---|---|
| American Antiquarian. | Ethical Record. |
| American Geographical Society Bulletin. | Journal of Geology. |
| American Journal of Sociology. | Philosophical Review. |
| Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science. | Psychological Review. |
| Annals of the Propagation of the Faith. | Southern Historical Association Publications. |
| Bird Lore. | *U. S. Labor Bulletin. |
| | Whist. |

QUARTERLIES.

- | | |
|--|--|
| American Anthropologist. | Journal of Political Economy. |
| American Catholic Historical Researches. | Library. |
| American Historical Review. | Mind. |
| American Journal of Archaeology. | Modern Language Association Publications. |
| American Journal of Psychology. | Monist. |
| American Journal of Theology. | Municipal Affairs. |
| Auk. | New England Historical and Genealogical Record. |
| *City of Chicago, Statistics. | New York Genealogical Record. |
| Dublin Review. | North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Record. |
| Economic Journal. | "Old Northwest" Genealogical Quarterly. |
| Edinburgh Review. | Pedagogical Seminary. |
| English Historical Review. | Poet Lore. |
| Essex Antiquarian. | Political Science Quarterly. |
| Folk-Lore. | Portfolio. |
| Forum. | Proceedings of Society for Psychical Research. |
| Genealogical Quarterly. | Quarterly Journal of Economics. |
| International Journal of Ethics. | Quarterly Review. |
| International Quarterly. | |
| Iowa Journal of History and Politics. | |
| Journal of American Folk-Lore. | |
| Journal of Pedagogy. | |

Shoppell's Modern Houses.
 South Carolina Historical and Gen-
 ealogical Magazine.
 *Sound Currency.

Theological Quarterly.
 Virginia Historical Magazine.
 William and Mary College Quarterly.
 Yale Review.

With thanks to each one of my assistants in all departments, for faithful work performed and for the always pleasant and harmonious relations they have maintained with one another and with our public, and with thanks to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors for your continued confidence, I am

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian.*

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1902-1903.

RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation	\$14,719.13	
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1902	33.98	
Rent	800.00	
Fines	700.77	
Books damaged and paid for	5.65	
Books lost and paid for	14.76	
Books sold	1.73	
Extra books loaned	22.40	
Duplicate cards issued	17.70	
Reserve postal cards	15.00	
Memberships	14.50	
Catalogues sold	26.90	
Waste paper sold	8.40	
		\$16,380.92

EXPENDITURES.

Books	\$ 3,417.81	
Periodicals	787.25	
Stationery	266.86	
Salaries	5,749.60	
Janitor service	1,130.00	
Binding (labor)	2,101.12	
Binding (materials)	254.89	
Fuel	405.33	
Light	982.39	
Expense	330.16	
Furniture and fixtures	79.75	
Improvement	38.00	
Reserve fund	800.00	
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1903	37.76	
		\$16,380.92

MEMBERSHIP.

Memberships in force June 1, 1902	8,068
Memberships issued during the year, good for two years	3,996
Total	12,064
Memberships expired during the year	3,838
Memberships in force May 31, 1903	8,226

CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

June 1, 1902—

Books in circulation	75,863 vols.	
Duplicates not in use		2,227 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated)		5,414 "

Losses—

Lost and paid for	19 vols.
Worn out and withdrawn	707 "

Total losses	726 vols.
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 75,137 vols.

Additions—

By purchase	3,179 vols.
By donation	559 "
By periodicals bound	462 "

Total additions	4,200 vols
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Total books in circulation	79,337 vols.
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Duplicates not in use	2,239 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated)	6,201 "	8,440 vols.

Total contents May 31, 1903	87,777 vols.
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Number of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading room—

Dailies	12
Weeklies	60
Bi-Weeklies	8
Monthlies	176
Bi-monthlies	11
Quarterlies	45

Duplicates in circulation	312
	25

Total	337
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NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED.

Per Cent.

Philosophy	1,665	.91
Theology	1,662	.91
Social and political science	1,789	.98
Natural science and useful arts	10,280	5.62
Fine arts, poetry and music	3,782	2.07
Fiction	83,067	45.42
Juvenile fiction	49,693	27.17
Literary miscellany	5,323	2.91
History and travel	19,323	10.56
Cyclopædias and periodicals	6,316	3.45
	<hr/>	
	182,900	100.00
Of the above were issued at the library	151,396	
" " " " " " " " schools and branch library	31,504	
	<hr/>	
	182,900	

Highest issue on any week day during 1902-1903..... Feb. 21, 1903, 1,184 vols.
 Lowest " " " " " " " " Feb. 3, 1903, 197 "

DELINQUENTS.

Books kept overtime during the year	13,021
Number of fine notices sent	1,529
" " notices for books reserved	1,417

SCHOOL ISSUE

	Harrison	Douglas	Webster	Sumner	Blaire	Franklin	Whittier	Lee	Garfield	Columbia	Glen Oak	Branch Library	Total
Literature.....	376	285	132	237	85	87	104	111	145	3	24	8	1,027
Science, art, religion.....	898	561	533	671	402	135	130	209	207		62	80	3,958
History, biography, travel.....	1,127	1,943	1,293	986	825	713	972	594	498	145	98	225	9,419
Fiction, fairy tales.....	2,774	2,064	2,525	1,519	1,286	1,445	1,144	1,075	1,012	914	227	515	16,500
Total.....	5,170	4,853	4,533	3,463	2,398	2,380	2,350	1,989	1,862	1,062	411	828	31,504

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1902, the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the library, May 31, 1903.

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1902	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1902-1903	Total volumes in Library May 31, 1903	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy.....	1,186	.....	1	1,185	59	1,244	1.57
Theology.....	2,917	1	1	2,915	116	3,031	3.82
Social and political sciences.....	10,124	.....	3	10,121	465	10,586	13.27
Natural sciences and useful arts.....	8,649	1	4	8,644	456	9,100	11.47
Fine arts and poetry.....	4,470	.....	6	4,464	144	4,608	5.81
Vocal and instrumental music.....	437	.....	.....	437	45	482	.61
Fiction.....	11,620	8	275	11,337	782	12,119	15.27
Juvenile literature.....	9,094	7	400	8,687	1,140	9,827	12.89
Literary miscellany.....	5,812	.....	10	5,802	245	6,047	7.62
History and travel.....	13,705	1	7	13,697	535	14,232	17.94
Cyclopædias and periodicals.....	7,349	1	.....	7,348	273	8,121	10.23
Total.....	75,863	19	707	75,137	4,200	79,337	100.00

CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English	4,029
German	119
French	6
Hebrew	1
Vocal and instrumental music	45
Total	4,200

Purchased	3,179
Donations catalogued	559
Periodicals bound	462
Total	4,200

BINDERY.

Books bound	739
Newspapers bound	33
Books rebound	2,630
Books repaired	1,153
Portfolios made	61
Total	4,616

32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	f°	Crown	Total
3	50	715	1577	705	232	119	1	3,402
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes								1,214
Total								4,616
Books repaired by desk assistant								1,955
Total								6,571
Peoria Public Library catalogues bound in paper								100
Current magazines covered								491
Members' cards folded and pasted								8,000

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
COUNTY OF PEORIA. } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of June, A. D. 1903, by
E. S. Willcox. LEWIS B. HOWE, Notary Public.

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

[SEAL.]

THE
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Forty-seventh Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1904

DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.

John S. Lee.....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold	1884 " 1896
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells	1886 " 1904
Dan F. Raum	1886 " 1889
Thos. F. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " 1902
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead	1897 " 1900
James P. Nailon	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington.....	1898 " 1904
Max Newman	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton	1899 " 1902
John E. Keene	1900 " date
James M. Quinn	1900 " date
Alexander G. Tyng	1902 " date
Frank J. Quinn	1902 " date
John Birks.....	1904 "
Alexander Glass.....	1904 "

Population of Peoria 1900..... 56,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1903-1904.

ROBERT C. GRIER, Chamber of Commerce.....	Term expires	1905
ALEXANDER G. TYNG, Chamber of Commerce.....	"	1905
FRANK J. QUINN, 101 S. Jefferson Ave.....	"	1905
THOMAS M. MCILVAINE, 516 Main St.....	"	1906
JOHN E. KEENE, 301 S. Jefferson Ave.....	"	1906
JAMES M. QUINN, Chamber of Commerce.....	"	1906
BERNARD CREMER, Peoria Demokrat.....	"	1907
JOHN BIRKS, Colburn Birks & Co.....	"	1907
ALEXANDER GLASS, 834 Fayette St.....	"	1907

OFFICERS.

T. M. MCILVAINE.....	<i>President</i>
J. E. KEENE.....	<i>Vice-President</i>
B. CREMER.....	<i>Secretary</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Tyng, F. J. Quinn, Glass.

Books—J. M. Quinn, Cremer, Birks.

Executive—McIlvaine, (*ex-officio*) Keene, Grier.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. WILLCOX—*Librarian*.

Assistants :

ELIZABETH ELLIS—*Reference Librarian*.

ANNA L. ARCHER—*Cataloguer*.

Helen M. Ballard,	Dallas R. Sweney,
Louise L. Booth,	Margaret M. McIlvaine,
Elizabeth Bontjes, ^a	Fannie Mayo Seabury. ^b

In the Bindery :

Richard J. Cross,	Ruth McKenzie,
Rachel Garabrant,	Margaret A. Theena.

Evening Attendant—N. M. McLaughlin.

Engineer—George A. Robison.

Janitress—Mrs. Mary Fogle.

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

^aUntil November; ^bfrom November.

Report of the Directors.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of Peoria:

GENTLEMEN:—Pursuant to the statute requiring the Directors of the Peoria Public Library to make an annual report to your honorable body, the following is respectfully submitted:

The financial and statistical reports have been made to this Board by the Librarian and are very complete and highly interesting as well as instructive to those who have the welfare of the Library at heart.

Various additions, alterations and repairs have been made to the Library Building during the past year, (the first since its erection ten years ago), which have put it in first-class condition for a number of years to come.

Among the extraordinary expenses thus incurred the following might be mentioned:

The gutters on the entire building have been renewed and the roof repaired where found necessary at a cost of \$396.50. All the inside woodwork has been cleaned and the walls and ceilings tastily retinted, costing in all \$648.50. The stack room was not only a very dusty place, owing to the many windows, and for the same reason was extremely cold in winter, so that it was a real hardship to our assistants, especially in winter, to do their necessary work therein.

This has been most happily overcome by fitting the windows with Chamberlin's metallic weather strips at a cost of \$159.60. The results of putting the weather strips in the stack room have been so gratifying that we would recommend that the remaining windows in the Library be fitted with the same, which may be done at a cost of about \$240, but which soon will repay itself in saving of fuel alone. Several other repairs and improvements have been made of slighter importance, which, with those enumerated above, bring our extraordinary expenditures up to a little

over \$1,300 for the year. Considerable insurance expires this year, and its renewal will amount to about \$400.

The Librarian and his assistants have performed their duties with their usual fidelity and regard for the best interests of the Library, as well as for the benefit and accommodation of the reading public. We believe we have as valuable a corps of workers in our Library as has any similar institution anywhere.

Thanking your honorable body for the liberality displayed toward this public institution in the past, we trust that it will be continued; that this Library may always be an honor and source of pride to our citizens.

THOS. M. MCILVAINE, *President.*

Report of the Librarian.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library:

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg leave to present the Librarian's report of the Peoria Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1904,—the 24th annual report of the Public Library and the 47th annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in the autumn of 1855.

Our statistics for the year, to which I refer for details, will be found at the end of this report. They show a slight falling off in membership and in the home circulation, so slight however as to make no perceptible difference in the work of the library and in its thorough occupancy of its natural field of usefulness in our city, yet sufficient to raise the question why there should be any falling off, and not a decided increase, which I venture to discuss later in this report.

MEMBERSHIP.

Our membership is now 8,013; one year ago it was 8,226, and our home circulation for the year was 174,700, last year 182,900, a falling off of 8,200. The percentages of fiction and non-fiction, adult and juveniles, remain the same as heretofore without noticeable change.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

As in former years we have continued our practice of placing a carefully selected library of from 300 to 500 volumes in each of our eleven grammar schools farthest removed from the central library, and also a library in a separate branch, the Neighborhood House, at 2000 S. Washington St. These school libraries are practically branch libraries in close and sympathetic relation with our schools where they naturally belong, but serving also to a large extent for the use of the children's parents as well.

Our High School being only one and one-half blocks from the library, its 600 pupils are always near the fountain head for any assistance they need.

CONTENTS OF THE LIBRARY.

The number of volumes added to the library during the year was 4,145, which, making deduction for books lost and paid for (18), or worn out and withdrawn (728) and exchanged in trade with publisher (15)—a total of 761—makes a total now in use of 82,721, or, with duplicates not in use (2,251), a total of 84,972. This does not include our large and valuable collection of pamphlets (6,775) which would make a grand total of 91,747.

THE BINDERY.

One foreman and three assistants—one assistant less than the preceding year—do not show as large a product as in my last report, and partly for the reason that for the last six weeks of the year and running into the coming year, the entire force were busy binding up a large accumulation of daily newspapers, account of which will appear in our next year's report. These daily papers, 95 volumes in the lot, mostly local papers and some of them dating from before the rebellion, had not been bound at the time as is our usage now, but, though seldom called for, they are yet among our most valuable possessions, growing more valuable as time goes on.

GIFTS.

Of these the library has received the usual number, mostly of minor importance this year, together with reports and bulletins from other libraries which are acknowledged at the time. It is not too late I hope to record here one valuable gift in 1902, which should have been mentioned in our last report, viz: Sixteen fine plaster casts from the antique given to the public library by the Peoria Mercantile Library Association and costing \$80—the small balance left over after the erection of our library building by the Mercantile Library Association in 1897. These noble copies of classical subjects—Jupiter, Homer, Socrates, Plato, Euripides, Virgil, Demosthenes, Cicero, Cæsar, Dante, Venus de Medici, Niobe and her daughters, etc., taken from the originals in the celebrated galleries of Rome, Florence, Paris, Berlin and London make a most instructive as well as attractive addition to our reading room.

AMONG THE IMPORTANT PURCHASES DURING THE YEAR ARE THE FOLLOWING:

Complete Works	{	Dickens, illus. library ed., 15 vols.
		Scott, illus. library ed., 12 vols.
		Eliot, illus. library ed. 8 vols.
		Roosevelt, Statesmen's ed., 14 vols.
Cyclopedia of engineering, ed. by Louis Derr, 4 vols.		
Garnett and Gosse, English literature, 4 vols.		
Essex institute historical collections, 38 vols.		
World's history and its makers, 10 vols.		
The drama, Victorian ed., 22 vols.		
Bryan's dictionary of painters and engravers, new ed., 3 vols.		
Life and labour of the people in London, 2d ser., 5 vols.		
History of Oregon, by Lyman, 4 vols.		
Siege of Quebec, by Doughty, 6 vols.		
People's Bible, by Joseph Parker, 27 vols.		
Biography and memorials of Nathan Hale, by Johnston.		
Appleton's universal cyclopædia and atlas, new ed., 12 vols.		
New international encyclopædia, vol. 11-17 (now completed).		

INVENTORY.

Our biennial inventory just concluded shows 132 volumes missing in the two years, viz:

Non-fiction	38
Fiction	23
Juveniles	38
German	33

Forty-five of these were from open shelves, 29 of the 45 from the open shelves of juveniles—a discouraging symptom.

In explanation, I should say, we keep 700 or more of our latest non-fiction purchases and something like a thousand juveniles on open shelves accessible to the public. Excepting these and works of reference like cyclopædias, dictionaries, etc., our books are kept in classified order in the stack room. Yet we admit to the privileges of the stack room, on request, and for special study, many different persons in the course of the year.

Some of the missing books may yet be discovered or be returned furtively, for I certainly think that the persons who took Talbot's *Our Bible*, or Van Dyke's *Reality of Religion* ought to be convicted of sin by this time. Whoever walked off with Mason's *One Thousand Ways of a Thousand Teachers* has added another Way to the list and the fellow who pocketed Roosevelt's *Strenuous Life* carries strenuousness to an extreme not justified, I

am convinced, by our worthy President; but who has our three volumes of Violin Classics? Is he fiddling and stealing still?

This matter of stealing books from a public library and of mutilating a periodical now and then—being betrayed and robbed by those we have loved and trusted—is one of the most exasperating experiences of human nature that librarians have to encounter. There are no words to express our feelings—at least none that we are familiar with in the vocabulary of polite society.

A SERIOUS MATTER.

Permit me to call attention to the following tables:

Wards.	Population under 21 years, school census.	MEMBERSHIP IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BY CITY WARDS.	Library Membership.
1	2,183	Upper end along river and railroads.....	593
2	2,194	East bluff, residence district	1,029
3	1,765	Center of city, Library, Post Office, High School ..	1,311
4	1,711	Center of city, adjoining 3d ward.....	1,134
5	3,102	West bluff, residence district.....	1,614
6	4,172	Below bluff to western city limits.....	759
7	4,540	Middle river district, wholesale, railroads	352
8	4,569	Lower river district, factories, mills, railroads	820
	24,236		7,612
		Non-residents	401
		Actual membership.....	8,013

The above figures grouped differently:

Wards.	Population.	Members.	Wards.	Population.	Members.
2	2,194	1,029	1	2,183	593
3	1,765	1,311	6	4,172	759
4	1,711	1,134	7	4,540	352
5	3,102	1,614	8	4,569	820
	8,772	5,088		15,464	2,524

If we compare in the above tables the first, sixth, seventh and eighth wards, which may be called the lower wards of our city, with the second, third, fourth and fifth wards it will be seen that while the former have nearly twice the school population of the latter they have only half as many memberships in the public library. To be in proportion they should have three and one-

half times as many, or, instead of 2,524 it should be 8,970 which would give us a total library membership at the present time of 14,058 instead of 8,013.

I need not here enter into an argument to show the value to our young people of acquiring a taste for reading—that it is the indispensable first step in education and culture, that its effect is to diminish idleness, ignorance and vice and so prevent a wasted life, that the perpetuation of our free institutions depends on universal education—no one questions it, it is a truism.

And this, as part of our public school system, is what free public libraries are here for. "Give a man a taste for good books and the means of gratifying it and you can hardly fail of making a happy man. You place him in contact with the best society in every period of history."

The practical question for us of the library is: Why have we no more readers from these lower wards? Distance from the library does not account for it, for the second and fifth wards are also distant, street cars from the extreme limits of the city pass within half a block of the library, a single fare only, and the lower wards are better provided for in the branch libraries at the schools.

I think the reason is that their children do not know how to read, at least not well enough to find pleasure in books; they have not acquired that fine accomplishment, the art of reading with ease. There are exceptions, of course, to so general a statement, but the fact remains that too many of them were not taught the elements of reading, their letters, early, at that most impressionable period of a child's life between the ages of three and six. That is the one best time for doing it easily and doing it to last. It is play for a child to learn his letters at three or earlier; put it off until he is six and has a thousand trivial things in his head and it is work. The idea of teaching him anything useful other than to keep out of the way seems not to have been thought of, and, as a consequence, the three best years of his life have gone to waste. And the fault lies with the parents; they neglect their children; are busy, perhaps with many cares; may have had little or no English education themselves and therefore do not appreciate its value. Especially is this the case with the laboring class of immigrants from Eastern Europe.

It is true, sympathetic young women from our best families now and then coax together a handful of little imps from the streets, tell them pretty fairy tales and sweetly flatter themselves that they are almost missionaries beyond the seas doing something for God and humanity, while, in point of fact, the youngsters ought to be, and would prefer to be, reading their own stories for themselves if they had only had half a chance.

Because a child is not admitted to the public schools until he is six years old is no reason why he should not know how to read before that. Every child should have learned his letters at his father's or mother's knee by the time he is three years old, and at the age of six should be able to read anything he could understand spoken. Do fathers and mothers nowadays owe no duty to their offspring in the matter of their early training? Can they throw all responsibility off on the school board? Franklin and Webster did not remember when they could not read, which is true of many of our older people to-day. It was the rule fifty years ago. Swift was reading the Bible at three, Carlyle, Dickens, Ruskin and Beecher were reading everything at four, Coleridge read the Arabian Nights before he was five, George Eliot read Waverley at six, Brougham was in the high school at seven and Byron had read the Bible through and through before he was eight. These are but a few instances out of thousands that might be mentioned. In music it is the same; Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Paderewski were all busy at the piano between the ages of four and six, before their little fingers could stretch an octave on the keyboard.

Do you say these were born geniuses?

Every normal child is a genius, or at least something of a genius. Ask his mother. How do we know it was not the early start they got and the pleasure of doing something worth while that endowed them with what we call genius?

It is preposterous to claim that either the body or the brain of a healthy child is hurt by learning to read young. We may be sure he is learning something at that age and not half so good for him. A child is a small embodied cyclone of restless activity. He learns more new things before completing his seventh year than in all the rest of his life together. It is the most eager, inquisitive period of life.



DELIVERY AND READING ROOM—FROM THE DESK

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS.

Admitted to a world of new and wonderful things the child's curiosity is insatiable, his memory never again so retentive, and of all the thousand and one things he learns nothing can be so serviceable to him, nothing can give him such a lift on the road he has to travel in after life as knowing early how to read. For this throws the doors wide open to all knowledge, this it is that marks the immeasurable distance between the cultivated man and the clown. And it is to be borne in mind that a genuine taste for reading can never be acquired so long as reading itself is a labor and a stumbling block—the picking out of words slowly one by one.

I am told by our teachers that good, fluent, intelligent reading, to say nothing of correct spelling, is almost a lost art in our public schools, all the way through even to the end of the high school.

The remedy I suggest for this condition of things is not one that can be made effective in a day, it will take years, but the sooner we begin the better. Let us urge then upon parents once more and without ceasing, by every influence we can bring to bear, through the schools, the women's clubs, the pulpit and the press, the duty they owe their children of teaching them how to read early before they enter the public schools.

But there is still another explanation of the comparative illiteracy of our rising generation, of the lack of appreciation of library privileges, viz.; truancy which prevails to an alarming extent in these lower wards. It is not the children who have been carefully taught at home and who can read when they enter school at six who are likely to find school studies irksome; they are the children we call bright, they will enjoy their studies and be ambitious to go on farther and faster. The dull child, the one who is behind in his reading, becomes discouraged and shirks attendance. The first one is not likely to play truant, he holds on to the end; the dull boy whose parents have shirked his education at home will now be the one to shirk his studies at school.

To him we must apply the truant law. He may not like it at first, but it is for his good and for our good. He must suffer, if suffering it be, for the sins of his parents and we must help him to overtake his lost opportunities. We must try to save his soul.

And we have an excellent truant law in this state, the essential points of which I beg leave to give here:

COMPULSORY EDUCATION—ILLINOIS STATE LAW.

Hurd's Revised Statutes, 1903. *Page 1706.*

313. For how long a time children must be sent to school.

1. Every person having control of any child between the ages of seven (7) and fourteen (14) years shall annually cause such child to attend some public or private school for the entire time during which the school attended is in session, which period shall not be less than one hundred and ten days of actual teaching.

314. Penalty. 2. For every neglect of such duty prescribed by section 1 of this act, the person so offending shall forfeit to the use of the public schools of the city, town or district in which such child resides, a sum not less than five dollars (\$5) nor more than twenty dollars (\$20) and costs of suit, and shall stand committed until such fine and costs of suit are fully paid. (As amended by act approved May 13, 1903. In force July 1, 1903.)

315. Board to appoint truant officer, 3. The Board of Education in cities, towns, villages and school districts, and the Board of School Directors in school districts, shall appoint at the time of appointment or election of teachers each year, one or more truant officers whose duty it shall be to report all violations of this act to said Board of Education or Board of Directors and to enter complaint against and prosecute all persons who shall appear to be guilty of such violation.

This law, I am told, has not been enforced here for some years. Meanwhile hundreds of half-grown boys who should be in school learning not only to read but also habits of industry, obedience to law, good manners, fitting themselves to become useful citizens, are permitted to roam our streets in idleness. They are learning fast enough—learning mischief and vice, how to become thieves, barn burners and boy bandits.

Even as I write this paragraph I learn from our chief of police that he has a list of ninety-one names of boys of our city between the ages of ten and eighteen years who are now under suspended sentence for these very crimes, in fact for almost every crime in the calendar. They are all under police surveillance and for a second offense will go straight to the reform school at Pontiac or to the penitentiary. Herein lies a peril to society more fatal in its consequences than scarlet fever or smallpox against which our civic authorities take the most stringent precautions. The health, the very existence of our body politic are threatened by the hordes of ignorant, vicious youth roaming the streets day and night. Nine-tenths of all the crime committed

and nearly all our poverty is the direct result of ill spent leisure—idleness.

This is something to set us thinking, and with it to connect the fact given me by our Superintendent of Schools, that only five per cent of the enrollment of our elementary schools last year completed the full eight year course; that is, in a total enrollment exceeding 10,000 only 508 went through the eight years. Here is a field for truant officers.

We have had truant officers in former years, comfortably inefficient I am told, except on pay day.

Suppose then we try the principals of our schools, make them truant officers, empowering them with authority in their respective districts; it is in their line; it is just what they are aching for, and they know or easily can know every one of the little scamps. They have time for it, too; it would not take much time after a few examples had been made. Moreover, our chief of police, whose heart is in the matter, and for good reason, considering the trouble they make him, tells me that if the principals find any incorrigibles just send in their names to him. It is what he has been wanting; he will do the rest of the business.

These, then, are the suggestions I would make for increasing the membership in our library:

1. Give the children an earlier start in reading.
2. Enforce the truant law.

I do not claim that the reading of good books by our youth will accomplish everything: only this, a taste for books, like good society, good advice, good examples, all of which are to be found in good books, is one of the best means we know of for guiding the feet of our youth in the paths of industry, honesty and good citizenship, and that if a large library membership from our old, well-to-do families who have books of their own in their houses is desirable all the more is it desirable from those families where children are growing up ignorant of the sight of books in their homes.

With thanks to each one of my assistants in all departments, for faithful work performed and for the always pleasant and harmonious relations they have maintained with one another and with our public, and with thanks to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors for your continued confidence, I am

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian.*

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1903-1904.

RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation	\$16,718.38
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1903.....	37.76
Rent	800.00
Fines	693.58
Books damaged and paid for.....	4.65
Books lost and paid for	14.75
Books sold	2.59
Extra books loaned	20.05
Duplicate cards issued	17.45
Reserve postal cards	15.00
Memberships	24.50
Catalogues sold	22.80
Waste paper sold	8.19
	<hr/> \$18,379.70

EXPENDITURES.

Books	\$ 3,832.68
Periodicals	840.75
Stationery	255.27
Salaries	5,894.01
Janitor service	1,090.00
Binding (labor).....	1,784.84
Binding (material).....	228.38
Fuel	607.11
Light	1,143.51
Insurance	180.00
Expense	1,410.21
Furniture and fixtures	69.25
Improvement	217.00
Reserve fund	800.00
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1904.....	26.69
	<hr/> \$18,379.70

MEMBERSHIP.

Memberships in force June 1, 1903.....	8,226
Memberships issued during the year, good for two years	4,019
Total	<hr/> 12,245
Memberships expired during the year	4,232
Memberships in force May 31, 1904.....	<hr/> 8,013

SCHOOL ISSUE.

	Harrison	Webster	Whittier	Sumner	Garfield	Blaine	Douglas	Columbia	Franklin	Lee	Glen Oak	Branch Library	Total
Literature.....	598	196	92	172	498	82	89	28	43	4	43	36	1,881
Science, art, religion.....	716	418	159	404	250	259	151	151	56	82	102	156	2,753
History, biography, travel.....	1,245	1,152	1,007	764	524	684	580	185	137	348	127	365	7,058
Fiction, fairy tales.....	2,326	2,518	1,354	1,090	924	1,023	952	705	517	306	229	911	12,855
Total.....	4,885	4,284	2,612	2,430	2,196	2,048	1,772	918	753	740	501	1,408	24,547

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1903, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the library, May 31, 1904.

	Total vols. in library May 31, 1903	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1903-1904	Total volumes in library May 31, 1904	Per Cent.
						No.	
Philosophy.....	1,244	.....	1	1,243	47	1,290	1.56
Theology.....	3,081	1	1	3,029	132	3,161	3.82
Social and political sciences.....	10,526	1	2	10,523	486	11,009	13.30
Natural sciences and useful arts.....	9,100	1	5	9,094	377	9,471	11.45
Fine arts and poetry.....	4,608	.....	6	4,602	198	4,800	5.80
Vocal and instrumental music.....	482	.....	.....	482	33	515	6.2
Fiction.....	12,119	7	248	11,864	807	12,671	15.31
Juvenile literature.....	9,827	7	447	9,373	901	10,274	12.42
Literary miscellany.....	6,047	.....	8	6,039	235	6,384	7.65
History and travel.....	14,232	.....	10	14,222	616	14,838	17.93
Cyclopædias and periodicals.....	8,121	1	15	8,105	253	8,358	10.14
Total.....	79,337	18	743	78,576	4,145	82,721	100.00

CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English	4,005
German	102
French	5
Vocal and instrumental music	33
Total	4,145
Purchased	3,285
Donations catalogued	457
Periodicals bound	403
Total	4,145

VOLUMES ISSUED FROM EACH CLASS—1881-1904.

	1881-1901	1901-1902	1902-1903	1903-1904
Philosophy	16,039	1,968	1,665	1,372
Theology	19,186	1,441	1,662	1,556
Social science	25,808	1,776	1,789	1,828
Natural science, useful arts	94,540	11,853	10,280	8,955
Fine arts, poetry and music	54,918	3,545	3,782	4,065
Fiction	1,002,062	81,836	83,067	81,393
Juvenile fiction	567,314	48,512	49,693	45,933
Literary miscellany	70,345	5,997	5,323	6,080
History and travel	211,672	20,633	19,323	17,306
Cyclopædias and periodicals	79,763	5,939	6,316	6,212
Total	2,141,647	183,500	182,900	174,700

PERCENTAGE OF ISSUE FROM EACH CLASS, 1881-1904.

	1881-1901	1901-1902	1902-1903	1903-1904
Philosophy	0.67	1.07	0.91	0.78
Theology	0.87	0.78	0.91	0.89
Social science	1.16	0.97	0.98	1.05
Natural science, useful arts	4.12	6.46	5.62	5.13
Fine arts, poetry and music	2.45	1.93	2.07	2.33
Fiction	47.48	44.60	45.42	46.59
Juvenile fiction	27.15	26.44	27.17	26.29
Literary miscellany	3.20	3.27	2.91	3.48
History and travel	9.32	11.24	10.56	9.91
Cyclopædias and periodicals	3.58	3.24	3.45	3.55
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

BINDERY.

Books bound	565
Newspapers bound	28
Books rebound	2,021
Books repaired	701
Portfolios made	37
Total	3,352

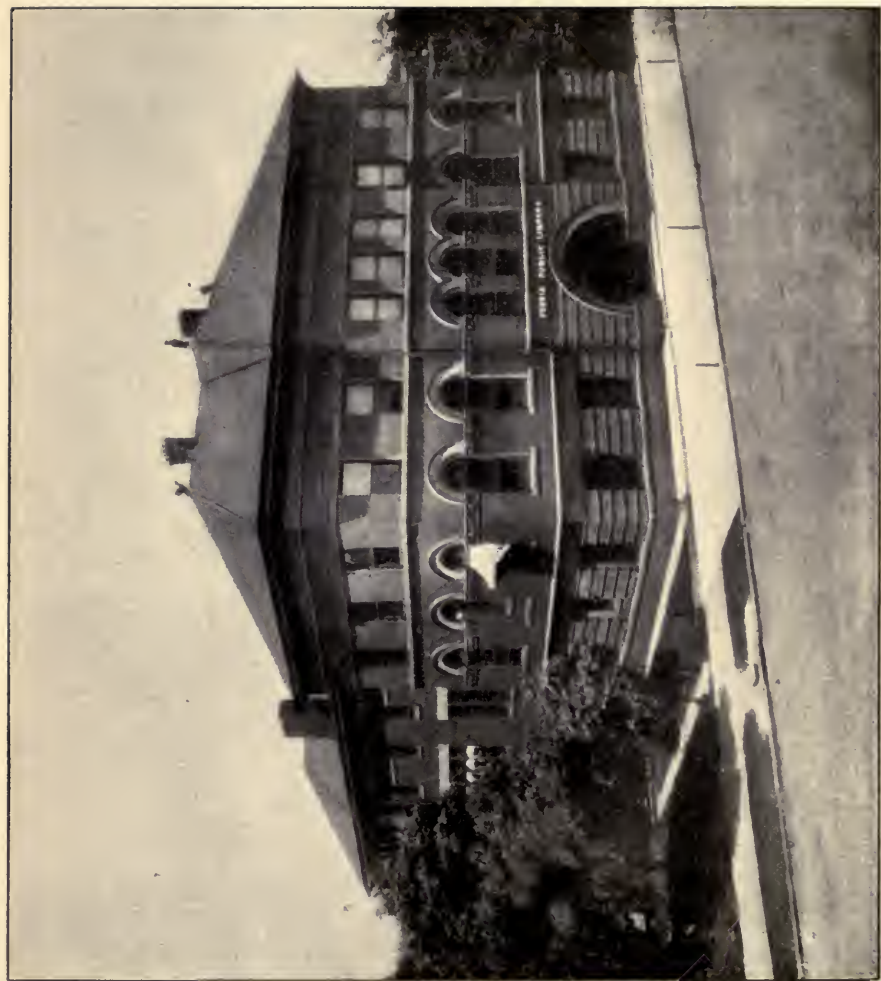
32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	f°	Total
12	42	446	1329	529	129	127	2,614
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes							738
							3,352
Books repaired by desk assistant							3,164
Total							6,516
Peoria Public Library catalogues bound in paper							258
Current magazines covered							460
Members' cards folded and pasted							9,400

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
COUNTY OF PEORIA. } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of June, A. D., 1904, by
E. S. Willcox. LEWIS B. HOWE, *Notary Public*.

[SEAL.]

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.



PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Forty-eighth Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1905

EDWARD HINE & CO., PRINTERS

DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY **FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.**

John S. Lee	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold	1884 " 1896
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " 1904
Dan F. Raum	1886 " 1889
Thos. F. Burnett	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort	1894 " 1902
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead	1897 " 1900
James P. Nailon	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington.....	1898 " 1904
Max Newman	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1899 " 1902
John E. Keene.....	1900 " date
James M. Quinn	1900 " date
Alexander G. Tyng.....	1902 " date
Frank J. Quinn.....	1902 " date
John Birks.....	1904 " date
Alexander Glass.....	1904 " 1905
C. R. Vandervort.....	1905

Population of Peoria 190056,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1904-1905.

THOMAS M. MCILVAINE, 516 Main St.....	Term expires	1906
JOHN E. KEENE, 301 S. Jefferson Ave.....	"	1906
JAMES M. QUINN, Chamber of Commerce	"	1906
BERNARD CREMER, Peoria Demokrat.....	"	1907
JOHN BIRKS, Colburn, Birks & Co.....	"	1907
CHAS. R. VANDERVORT .. 716 N. Jefferson Ave.	"	1907
ROBERT C. GRIER, Chamber of Commerce	"	1908
ALEXANDER G. TYNG, Chamber of Commerce	"	1908
FRANK J. QUINN, 101 S. Jefferson Ave	"	1908

OFFICERS.

T. M. MCILVAINE	<i>President.</i>
J. E. KEENE	<i>Vice-President.</i>
B. CREMER.....	<i>Secretary.</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing.—Tyng, J. M. Quinn, F. J. Quinn.
Books—Vandervort, Cremer, Birks.
Executive—McIlvaine (*ex-officio*), Keene, Grier.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. WILLCOX—*Librarian.*

Assistants:

ELIZABETH ELLIS—*Reference Librarian.*
 ANNA L. ARCHER—*Cataloguer.*

Helen M. Ballard,	Dallas R. Sweney
Louise L. Booth,	Fannie Mayo Seabury,
Margaret M. McIlvaine,	Willis B. Coale.*

Branch Library:

Louisa Anderson.

In the Bindery:

Richard J. Cross,	Margaret A. Theena,
Rachel Garrabrant,	Daisy Wetzler.

Evening Attendant—N. M. McLaughlin.

<i>Engineer</i> —Chas. A. McMullen.	<i>Janitress</i> —Mrs. Mary Fogle.
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The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays (July and August excepted), from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

*From January.

~~p14678~~

Peoria-Pub. lib. 97

Report of the Directors.

To the Mayor and City Council:

GENTLEMEN:—The following Report of the Directors and Librarian of the Peoria Public Library for the year 1905 is herewith respectfully submitted:

The financial and statistical reports made to this Board are very full and show the utmost watchfulness on the part of the various Committees and the Librarian in the administration of the affairs of the Library. In this connection the report of an expert auditor will not be out of place, and the credit given by him to our bookkeeping, is certainly well deserved:

Mr. Alexander G. Tyng, Chairman of Finance Committee of Peoria Public Library, Peoria:

DEAR SIR:—Pursuant to the instructions of your Committee to examine and audit the books of account of the Peoria Public Library from Jan. 1, 1900, to Oct. 1, 1905, I beg to report that I have completed that work, and that I find the said accounts to be in perfect balance. They have been accurately and very neatly kept and reflect the highest credit upon the librarian and his bookkeeper.

I find every item of receipts properly entered and a proper voucher, approved by the proper officials and committee, showing every item of disbursements for the period above named.

Owing to the excellent condition and absolute accuracy of these accounts, the work of examination has been speedily and easily accomplished, and I beg leave to say in my opinion your committee and all concerned have excellent reason to feel proud of the system and efficiency of the Peoria Public Library.

Very Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MCALLISTER.

PEORIA, ILL., Oct. 19, 1905.

During the night of Sept. 17-18, a stroke of lightning injured the smoke stack and broke some tiles on the roof. The expense of the repair work amounting to \$149.67 was paid by the insurance companies.

The amount of insurance carried is as follows: On building \$20,000, books \$19,500, furniture \$1,000 and on binding tools and materials \$500, making a total of \$41,000.

Only words of commendation and praise can be used in writing of the work done by the Librarian and his corps of assistants, always at their posts of duty, ever ready to serve the reading public. The patrons of the Library, will, I am sure, join with us in this well deserved acknowledgment of their faithfulness and capacity.

Trusting that the liberality shown the Library by your honorable body in the past will be continued in the future toward sustaining this institution which is an honor and credit to our city, I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

THOS. M. MCILVAINE, *President.*

Report of the Librarian.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library:

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg leave to submit the Librarian's report of the Peoria Public Library for the library year ending May 31, 1905,—the 25th annual report of the Public Library and the 48th annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in the autumn of 1855.

Our statistics for the year, to which I refer for details, will be found at the end of this report.

MEMBERSHIP.

Our two-year membership is now 8,005 as against 8,013 one year ago, and our home circulation for the year was 174,920 as against 174,700 the previous year.

That our library is doing good work, that it is warmly appreciated by our public, we who work here daily have abundant evidence from the grateful acknowledgments of our own members but especially by the constant expressions of approval from new comers in our city and the regrets expressed by people who, for various reasons, are compelled to remove to other cities. These appreciations and these regrets are an almost every day experience with us here.

If it is asked, then, why we have not shown a larger increase in membership and in circulation, this may be said:

In a newly opened free public library the increasing acquaintance with the advantages it offers, spreading quickly through the community, produces a rapid increase for some years both in membership and in circulation, but an old established library, once having approached its maximum of usefulness, grows thereafter more gradually; this, perhaps, is our condition now, and this also, I do not doubt, has its effect, viz: the enormous increase in the number and circulation of the popular, illustrated cheap magazines of the day. With these magazines and the daily papers flooding our tables at home, we neglect the reading of books of more solid, permanent value.

Our circulation through the schools in distant parts of the city is somewhat less than last year, but some compensation for this loss is found in the increasing circulation of books from the branch library at the Neighborhood House, 2000 South Washington St., which, under the efficient charge of Miss Louisa Anderson, shows a growing interest in books in the lower end.

GERMAN BOOKS.

There were issued during the year 4,077 books in the German language, mostly fiction, and issued to elderly persons who came to this country too late in life to have acquired facility in reading English. Their children, educated in our public schools, do not, I regret to say, keep up their German reading as well as their parents.

CONTENTS OF THE LIBRARY.

The number of volumes added to the library during the year was 4,355, which, making allowance for books lost and paid for (19) or worn out and withdrawn (1,194) and exchanged (17)—a total of 1,230, makes a total now in use of \$5,846, or, with duplicates not in use (2,260), makes a total of \$7,746. This does not include our large valuable collection of pamphlets (7,300), which would make a grand total of 95,406.

THE BINDERY

With one foreman and three assistants shows 95 volumes of newspapers, mostly local papers, and 502 books bound, 2,431 books rebound, 1,191 books repaired and much miscellaneous work done besides. But for nearly two months' illness of our foreman, the showing would have been considerably larger.

GIFTS.

Of these the library has received no great number this year outside of the annual reports and bulletins from other libraries which are acknowledged at the time.

Being a government depository we receive all the U. S. government publications as issued, which are of value for reference both now and in the future. They take up a great deal of shelf room, however, so much that in order to find more room in our lower stack room for our bound sets of newspapers and periodicals we have been compelled to shift several thousand volumes of them into a vacant room in the third story, where they make a very handsome and, indeed, formidable showing. It is to be hoped they may

prove as useful to future students of our national history as they are imposing now.

Among the more valuable personal gifts of the year are the following, viz:

- University of Chicago. Decennial publications. 10 vols.
- J. S. Starr. Munsell's Historical Encyclopaedia of Illinois. 2 vols.
- J. E. Huber. Über Land und Meer. 6 vols.
- " " Daheim, Deutsch-Amerikanische Familien-Blätter. 2 vols.
- Julius Winter. Allgemeine Roman-Bibliothek. 26 vols.
- " " Bibliothek der Unterhaltung und des Wissens. 14 vols.
- C. P. Farrell. Omar Khayyam. Sufi interpretations by Bjerregaard.

We are also greatly indebted to our local press, especially the Journal and Herald-Transcript, for frequent and extended notices of our new accessions.

Among the important purchases of the year are the following valuable sets of books for our reference department, viz:

Fortier's History of Louisiana.....	4 vols.
Williams' History of Science.....	5 "
New York Genealogical and Biographical Record	8 "
World's Best Poetry	10 "
Ideas That Have Influenced Civilization.....	10 "
Irish Literature	10 "
Humboldt Library of Science.....	18 "
Guy Carleton Lee's History of America	20 "
Disraeli's Complete Works	20 "
Historians' History of the World.....	25 "
World's Best Classics	30 "
International Library of Technology.....	45 "

Also a large globe for our reading room and an oblong case with 81 pigeon holes for maps.

PATENT OFFICE PUBLICATIONS.

One large room, No. 3, in our third story, is almost exclusively devoted to Patent Office Reports. Here we have, neatly bound and in chronological order, a complete set of the weekly Patent Office Gazette, and, also, all the volumes of specifications up to date, a room which is visited almost daily by the patent attorneys of our city.

OUR FILES OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

An important function of the public library is to gather up and preserve the local newspapers. Future historians will find

the history of our city in these papers, and they become, of course, more and more valuable with age.

From the following list it will be seen that the Peoria Public Library has fairly complete files of Peoria papers from February, 1840, down to the present time, a period of more than 65 years, the most of them in a good state of preservation and completeness, and all bound, catalogued and easily reached on our shelves.

Peoria Register and Northwestern Gazetteer	Apr. 1840-Feb. 1843
Democratic Press (daily)	Jan. 1854-Dec. 1855
Democratic Press (weekly)	Feb. 1840 Jan. 1857
Democratic Union (daily)	June 1860 Sept 1862
Weekly Republican	Jan. 1852-July 1857
Tri-weekly Press	Jan. 1853-Jan. 1854
Morning News (daily)	Dec. 1854-May 1858
Transcript (daily)	1857-Dec. 1893
Transcript (weekly)	Feb 1858-Dec. 1892
Morning Mail	Jan. 1863-June 1864
National Democrat (daily)	Sept. 1865-June 1886
Evening Review	Jan. 1875-Oct. 1884
Freeman (daily)	Jan. 1881-June 1886
Journal (daily)	Jan. 1881-to date
Saturday Evening Call	1881-1886
Emery's Daily Peorian	Jan.-Aug. 1881
News (daily)	Oct. 1883-Dec 1884
Evening Freeman-Post	Feb.-Oct. 1887
Herald (daily)	Mar. 1889-Mar. 1899
High School Opinion	1892-1902
Evening Star (daily)	Sept. 1897-to date
Herald-Transcript (daily)	Apr. 1899-to date
Täglicher Demokrat	Jan. 1898-to date

If any of our older families happen to possess, hid away in closets or garrets, any back volumes or numbers of our earliest papers like the Democratic Press or the Peoria Register and Northwestern Gazetteer, we shall be glad to have them.

In closing this report permit me to lay some emphasis on the value of the Public Library in diffusing general intelligence among the people, among those families especially which have few books at home.

In our old Mercantile Library, in which I was a director for 17 years and which was, of course, a subscription library charging \$4.00 a year, we had a membership of less than 300 with an annual issue of about 7,500 volumes. Our membership now ex-

ceeds 8,000 and our circulation 174,920. Making an allowance of 132,318 for adult and juvenile fiction which has its uses, we issue now to the people of Peoria 42,602 books of the better class—books of philosophy, history, biography, travel, science, art and literature, as compared with 2,250 books of the same classes formerly. Without taking into account all the innocent, delightful and instructive entertainment afforded by the 132,318 volumes of lighter literature, adult and juvenile, should not this showing count for much in the diffusion of knowledge among our people?

For knowledge is the greatest blessing, ignorance the greatest curse, and vice and crime are the legitimate offspring of ignorance. Thousands of years ago Sinai thundered and lightened against these twin monsters that still run riot on the earth.

The promised millenium is not here yet, else we should have no work to do. The church, the school, the press are leaders in the long drawn-out battle between good and evil. May not we, obscure laborers in the public library, claim a place in the ranks of these faithful workers for man?

With thanks to each one of my assistants in all departments for faithful work performed and for the always pleasant and harmonious relations they have maintained with one another and with our public, and with thanks to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors for the interest you have shown in our public library and for your continued confidence, I am

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian.*

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1904-1905.

RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation.....	\$16,869.52
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1904.....	26.69
Rent	800.00
Fines.....	760.28
Books damaged and paid for.....	4.05
Books lost and paid for.....	15.75
Books sold.....	2.14
Extra books loaned.....	19.90
Duplicate cards issued.....	14.95
Reserve postal cards	15.00
Memberships	12.00
Catalogues sold.....	26.15
Waste paper sold	10.46
	<hr/> \$18,576.89

EXPENDITURES.

Books	\$ 4,021.45
Periodicals.....	839.98
Stationery	262.30
Catalogues	362.90
Salaries.....	6,365.66
Janitor service.....	1,140.00
Binding (labor).....	1,832.49
Binding (material).....	220.17
Tools and machinery	3.10
Fuel.....	483.70
Light	1,151.64
Insurance.....	463.00
Expense.	532.03
Furniture and fixtures	59.00
Reserve fund	800.00
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1905.....	34.47
	<hr/> \$18,576.89

MEMBERSHIP.

Memberships in force June 1, 1904.....	8,013
Memberships issued during the year, good for two years.....	3,988
Total	<hr/> 12,001
Memberships expired during the year	3,996
Memberships in force May 31, 1905.....	<hr/> 8,005

SCHOOL AND BRANCH LIBRARY ISSUES.

	Harrison	Whittier	Garfield	Douglas	Blaine	Columbia	Franklin	Glen Oak	Lee	Branch Library	Total
Literature.....	258	142	311	166	93	28	71	20	5	60	1,154
Science, art, religion.....	374	154	273	127	191	193	81	65	5	327	1,597
History, biography, travel.....	942	1,276	481	621	560	193	197	115	72	711	5,168
Fiction, fairy tales.....	1,532	1,280	1,345	972	1,011	1,144	917	272	120	2,397	10,990
Total.....	3,106	2,852	2,410	1,886	1,855	1,365	1,266	472	202	3,495	18,909

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1904, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the library, May 31, 1905.

	Total vols. in library May 31, 1904	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1904-1905	Total volumes in library May 31, 1905	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy.....	1,200	.....	3	1,297	50	1,337	1.56
Theology.....	3,161	.....	2	3,159	136	3,295	3.84
Social and political sciences.....	11,009	.....	4	11,004	450	11,454	13.34
Natural sciences and useful arts.....	9,471	1	4	9,463	440	9,903	11.53
Fine arts and poetry.....	4,800	4	5	4,794	196	4,990	5.81
Vocal and instrumental music.....	515	.....	.....	515	23	538	.63
Fiction.....	12,671	9	480	12,182	936	13,118	15.28
Juvenile literature.....	10,274	3	685	9,586	1,103	10,689	12.45
Literary miscellany.....	6,334	1	8	6,325	242	6,567	7.65
History and travel.....	14,838	.....	3	14,835	523	15,358	17.90
Cyclopedias and periodicals.....	8,358	.....	17	8,341	256	8,597	10.01
Total.....	82,721	19	1,211	81,491	4,355	85,846	100.00

CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English	4,177
German	143
French	11
Spanish.....	1
Vocal and instrumental music	23
Total	4,355
Purchased	3,464
Donations catalogued.....	503
Periodicals bound	388
Total	4,355

VOLUMES ISSUED FROM EACH CLASS.

	1881-1901	1901-1902	1902-1903	1903-1904	1904-1905
Philosophy.....	16,039	1,968	1,665	1,372	1,352
Theology	19,186	1,441	1,662	1,556	1,662
Social science.....	25,808	1,776	1,789	1,828	1,876
Natural science, useful arts	91,540	11,853	10,280	8,955	8,282
Fine arts, poetry and music	54,918	3,545	3,782	4,065	3,855
Fiction	1,002,062	81,836	83,067	81,393	87,029
Juvenile fiction ..	567,314	48,512	49,693	45,933	45,289
Literary miscellany.....	70,345	5,997	5,323	6,080	5,730
History and travel	211,672	20,633	19,323	17,306	13,982
Cyclopædias and periodicals	79,763	5,939	6,316	6,212	5,863
Total.....	2,141,647	183,500	182,900	174,700	174,920

PERCENTAGE OF ISSUE FROM EACH CLASS, 1881-1904.

	1881-1901	1901-1902	1902-1903	1903-1904	1904-1905
Philosophy.....	0 67	1 07	0 91	0 78	0 77
Theology	0 87	0 78	0 91	0 89	0 95
Social science	1 16	0 97	0 98	1 05	1 07
Natural science, useful arts	4 12	6 46	5 62	5 13	4 74
Fine arts, poetry and music	2 45	1 93	2 07	2 33	2 20
Fiction.....	47 48	44 60	45 42	46 59	49 75
Juvenile fiction	27 15	26 44	27 17	26 29	25 89
Literary miscellany	3 21	3 27	2 91	3 48	3 28
History and travel	9 32	11 24	10 56	9 91	8 00
Cyclopædias and periodicals	3 58	3 24	3 45	3 55	3 35
Total.....	100.00	100 00	100.00	100 00	100 00

BINDERY

Books bound.....	502
Newspapers bound.....	95
Books rebound.....	2,431
Books repaired	1,191
Portfolios made	54
Total.....	4,273

32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	f°	Total
3	32	513	1685	520	128	147	3,028
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes.....							1,245
Books repaired by desk assistant.....							4,273
Total.....							3,032
Current magazines covered							7,305
Members' cards folded and pasted							443
							9,382

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
COUNTY OF PEORIA. } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of June, A. D., 1905, by
E. S. Willcox. EMMA DONNELLY, *Notary Public*.
[SEAL.]



PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE
TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Forty-ninth Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1906

EDWARD HINE & CO., PRINTERS

DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.

John S. Lee	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster	1880 " 1886
James Millard ..	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold	1884 " 1896
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " 1904
Dan F. Raum.....	1886 " 1889
Thos. F. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort	1894 " 1902
Frank Meyer	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead	1897 " 1900
James P. Nailon	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington.....	1898 " 1904
Max Newman	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton	1899 " 1902
John E. Keene	1900 " date
James M. Quinn	1900 " date
Alexander G. Tyng	1902 " date
Frank J. Quinn	1902 " date
John Birks.....	1904 " date
Alexander Glass.....	1904 " 1905
C. R. Vandervort.....	1905 " date

Population of Peoria 190056,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1905-1906.

BERNARD CREMER, Peoria Demokrat	Term expires	1907
JOHN BIRKS, Colburn Birks & Co.....	"	" 1907
CHAS. R. VANDERVORT, 716 N. Jefferson avenue	"	" 1907
ROBERT C. GRIER, Chamber of Commerce	"	" 1908
ALEXANDER G. TYNG, Chamber of Commerce.....	"	" 1908
FRANK J. QUINN, 101 S. Jefferson Ave.....	"	" 1908
THOMAS M. MCILVAINE, 516 Main St	"	" 1909
JOHN E. KEENE, 301 S. Jefferson Ave.....	"	" 1909
JAMES M. QUINN, Chamber of Commerce.....	"	" 1909

OFFICERS.

JOHN E. KEENE.....	<i>President</i>
ALEXANDER G. TYNG.....	<i>Vice-President</i>
B. CREMER.....	<i>Secretary</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Tyng, J. M. Quinn, F. J. Quinn.

Books—Vandervort, Cremer, Birks.

Executive—Keene, (*ex-officio*) McIlvaine, Grier.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. WILLCOX—*Librarian*

Assistants:

ELIZABETH ELLIS—*Reference Librarian*

ANNA L. ARCHER—*Cataloguer.*

Helen M. Ballard,	Dallas R. Sweney,
Louise L. Booth,	Fannie Mayo Seabury,
Margaret M. McIlvaine	Willis B. Coale, ^a
Myra E. Van Eps, ^b	Lester Wheeler, ^c
Elizabeth Buchanan, ^c	Edward Poole. ^c

Evening Attendant—N. N. McLaughlin.

Branch Library:

Louisa Anderson

In the Bindery:

Richard J. Cross,	Margaret A. Theena,
Rachel Garrabrant,	Daisy Wetzler,
<i>Engineer</i> —Chas. A. McMullen.	<i>Janitress</i> —Mrs. Mary Fogle

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays (July and August excepted), from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

^a Until January. ^b From April. ^c Occasional.

Report of the Directors.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Peoria.

GENTLEMEN:—The Directors of the Peoria Public Library submit, herewith, their twenty-sixth annual financial and statistical report compiled by the Librarian and approved by the Board; also the report of the Librarian and the Board of Directors, in which attention is called to matters of special interest to the library. A careful study of these reports will, we think, inspire a feeling of justifiable pride in an institution that is doing so much for the intellectual and moral development of our City.

The Public Library stands unquestionably next to our common schools as a means of popular education, and excels them as a source of special information, as an inspiration to greater knowledge.

The Directors, with the hearty co-operation of the Librarian and his assistants, have tried, in every possible way, to make the Peoria Public Library all it should be to our citizens to whom it belongs. A cordial invitation is extended to all to visit the Library and avail themselves of the rare privilege offered by its richly stored shelves. The Directors take pleasure in saying that the Librarian and his able corps of assistants have been uniformly faithful and courteous and all those who have visited the rooms have been made to feel that they were at home within these walls.

We wish to call your special attention to the large increase in membership and number of books, also to the rapidly increasing circulation, both in the Library proper and its branches, proving the efficiency of the service and the esteem in which the Library is held by the community. This has necessitated increased facilities and expense, as mentioned in the report of the Librarian, all of which we feel sure will meet with your approval.

We thank your Honorable Body for the support heretofore given, and trust that, in the future, the growing needs of this splendid institution will not be without your adequate expression of appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN E. KEENE, President.

Report of the Librarian.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg to submit the Librarian's report of the Peoria Public Library for the current year ending May 31, 1906—the 26th annual report of the Public Library and the 49th annual report of the same library since its origin as the City Library in the autumn of 1855.

Our statistics for the year will be found at the end of this report; meanwhile the following summary of our work here:

MEMBERSHIP.

Our membership one year ago was 8,005, it is now 8,485, a gain of 480 and the largest in the history of the library.

CIRCULATION.

Our home circulation for the year was 195,920 as compared with 174,920 the year before—a gain of 21,000, again much the largest in our history.

This increased circulation has been attained notwithstanding the fact that two of our ward schools, which had issued 6,714 volumes the year before from libraries deposited with them issued none this year, but this loss was more than overcome by the increase of issues from our evening branch library at the Neighborhood House, 2000 South Washington street. This evening branch library under the efficient management of Miss Louisa Anderson, situated in the lower end of town among the industrial classes, near the railroad yards, mills and factories, issued last year 10,525 volumes as compared with 3,495 the year before—a gain of 7,030.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

The number of volumes added to our collection during the year was 5,000, which, making allowance for books lost and paid for (23), or worn out and withdrawn, mostly fiction (1,119), a total of 1,142 in all, makes the number now on our shelves in circulation 89,704, or, including duplicates (2,281), a total of 91,985. This does not include our large and valuable collection of pamphlets (8,044), which would make a grand total of 100,029.

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

We supply libraries from 500 to 700 volumes each to nine of our public schools farthest removed from the center of town, and a similar library at the Neighborhood House, 2000 South Washington street. The total issues from these ten libraries, all practically branches of the main library, were 26,501 as against 18,909 the preceding year, a gain of 7,592.

These subsidiary libraries do excellent work in supplying good reading to families in the lower wards at no expense for service. They are more and more appreciated from year to year as may be seen from the increased circulation, with every promise of a still larger circulation the coming year.

THE BINDERY

Continues to do good work, but this must be said: If publishers did as good, honest work in their binderies we should not have half as much to do in ours in rebinding the cheap, flimsy work they turn out.

No account is kept of the use of books and periodicals in our large, well lighted public reading room nor of the number of reference works consulted in the library. It is enough to say that our room is fairly well filled by readers and students at all hours of the day, and, at all seasons of the year, except in the summer months, occupied nearly to its full capacity.

We take regularly 336 periodicals, always accessible in the reading room—33 of them being duplicates in circulation. They form a large part of the attractions of our library.

Among our more important purchases during the year are the following:

- Burns. Complete works, self-interpreting ed. 6 vols.
- Lamb. Complete works. 12 vols.
- Swift. Prose works, 10 vols.
- Lowell. Complete writings, Elmwood ed. 16 vols.
- Goldsmith, Works. Library ed. 12 vols.
- Whittier. Complete writings, Amesbury ed. 7 vols.
- Schiller. Sämtliche Werke. 16 vols. (German.)

New sets of the following authors:

Dickens, Eliot, Reade, Kingsley, Scott, Henry James, jr., G. P. R. James and Crawford.

Famous composers and their music, extra illus. ed. 16 vols.
 Ridpath's Library of universal literature. Edition de luxe. 25 vols.
 Universal Classics library. 20 vols.
 Century dictionary, new ed. 10 vols.
 Burton Holmes lectures. 10 vols. 3 sets.
 World's wit and humor. 15 vols.
 Walters. History of ancient pottery. 2 vols.
 Garnier. Soft porcelain of Sèvres.
 Maxwell. History of the house of Douglas. 2 vols.
 Sturgis. Study of the artist's way of working. 2 vols.
 Pepys. Diary and correspondence. Braybrook ed. 4 vols.
 Oxford history of music. 6 vols.
 Payne's Royal Dresden gallery. 2 vols.
 Rand, McNally & Co. Indexed atlas of the world. 2 vols.
 Thwaites. Wisconsin in three centuries. 4 vols.
 Elgood & Jekyll. Some English gardens.
 Illinois State Gazetteer, 1858-1859.
 Journal of the constitutional convention 1869.
 The Ancestor, a quarterly magazine, 1902-1905.
 Texas state historical society quarterly. 9 vols.

The following for architects:

Seder. Naturalistische Decorations malereien. 3 vols.
 Olbrich. Architectur. 2 vols.
 Kidder. Building construction and superintendence. 3 vols.
 Beauclair, & Grادل. Documents architecture moderne. 3 vols.
 Racinet. L'ornement polychrome. 2 vols.
 Buehlmann. Architecture.

We now have the following Illinois county histories in the library:

Fulton, Greene, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Livingston, Massac, McDonough, Peoria, Sangamon, Stark, Warren.

And also:

Matson. Pioneers of Illinois.
 Steward. Lost Maramech and earliest Chicago.
 Alvord. Old Kaskaskia records.
 Blair. Pictures of the past: memories of old Toulon.

Some extraordinary expenses, chargeable mostly to improvement account, had to be met during the year, the final payments in several instances being made after the close of our fiscal year:

The ceiling in the basement underneath the bindery plastered..	\$ 46.05
The eaves troughs around the entire roof repaired	40.00
The apparatus in the electric closet made new and enlarged to meet the increased demands for electric light.....	23.50
An outside electric light over the main entrance.....	34.00
Shelves for room No. 4, third story.....	198.05
Map case or cabinet, 7½ feet long, 3½ feet high, 3½ feet wide, containing 81 long pigeon holes for maps rolled up and tagged .	35.00
And a new story, the 4th, of book cases by A. Lucas & Sons, the firm that put in our 3d story of cases six years ago; at a cost for the	
Steel uprights of	1,240.00
Glass floors between cases.....	416.00
Wood floors in the aisles.....	105.30
Pine shelves for the cases	166.50
In addition, chargeable to expense account, new flues in our two steam boilers	246.85

A total of extraordinary expenditures of\$2,551.25

This new fourth-story stack room will give us shelf room for 30,000 additional volumes, which with the spare shelving still at our command in the third story, will supply our storage needs for ten years to come at the present rate of growth. There remains one more story in our stack room, the fifth, to be equipped with shelving for 30,000 more volumes when needed.

At the annual meeting of our State Library Association in Springfield, May 22-24, our library was represented by Miss McIlvaine and the librarian. The attendance of library workers, including library directors, from all over the state was large and encouraging and the papers read with the discussions following were profitable.

The value of these annual meetings of librarians cannot be estimated too highly. To work hard a year within the four walls of one's own library—the same daily round—is to be something of a hermit, a little near-sighted.

To come together once a year with one hundred or more other librarians, shake hands with fellow workers, compare experiences and discuss problems is good, is stimulating; we go

back to work again not with new ideas only, but also with increased self-respect and greater confidence to welcome our friends thronging at the delivery counter.

To our daily newspapers—the Herald-Transcript, Star and Journal—we owe thanks for numerous friendly allusions to the value of our library as a factor in our educational system, and for publishing frequent lists of new books. To the Journal we are especially indebted for publishing quarterly our long list of new additions.

It is our custom to take an inventory of our library every two years, but this year it was found to be impracticable owing to the work going on and consequent disturbance in our stack room. It will be done next year.

THE BRANCH LIBRARY.

The growing appreciation of our work at the Branch Library on South Washington street, to which I have alluded, raises the question of providing better accommodations, a larger room to serve as a reading room for older persons of evenings in connection with the issuing of books.

The room we now occupy, only 13½ feet wide by 22½ feet long with book cases for 1,500 volumes against the walls, three small tables, a few chairs and a low desk in the corner for the attendant, is much too small to make an attractive reading room for grown people, the very ones we are now after and beginning to get hold of.

Mr. A. S. Oakford, to whose public spirit we are indebted for the use of this small room, rent, light and heat free, offers us the use of the adjoining room, which is more than twice as large, as a public reading room of evenings. The two rooms are connected by a doorway. By providing a few tables and chairs, the daily newspapers and some of the popular magazines, we might be able to draw in under more refining influences many young men and women, and, for that matter, older ones, too, who are at a loss now where, except on the streets, to find a pleasant resort after the day's work is over.

I commend this matter to your serious consideration.

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

Sooner or later with the rapid growth of our city a branch library and reading room will be wanted in the neighborhood of the proposed new High School on Lincoln avenue.

A little foresight on the part of our School Board now in planning the building might make the way easy for such a desirable addition to our educational forces. Let them leave one large room on the lower floor for a public room without fixed seats and desks and, when the demand arises, let the public library board furnish and supply it with reading matter for evening use.

It is a pity that so many large and beautiful rooms as our school buildings have, otherwise so convenient for public uses, should all lie empty and idle fifteen hours of the twenty-four because of the 40 or more immovable children's desks in each one of them.

With thanks to each one of my assistants in all departments for faithful work performed and for the always pleasant relations they have maintained with one another and with our public, and with thanks to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors for the watchful interest you have shown in your charge and for your continued confidence, I am,

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1905-1906.

RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation.....	\$17,987.86
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1905.....	34.47
Rent	800.00
Fines	800.96
Books damaged and paid for	4.20
Books lost and paid for.....	17.25
Books sold	1.73
Extra books loaned.....	18.70
Duplicate cards issued	17.25
Reserve postal cards... ..	19.00
Memberships	9.00
Catalogues sold.....	18.30
Waste paper sold.....	6.00
Old iron flues sold	15.00
	<hr/> \$19,749.72

EXPENDITURES.

Books	\$ 4,657.11
Periodicals	815.06
Stationery	288.87
Salaries	6,829.12
Janitor service	1,147.00
Binding (labor)	1,716.43
Binding (material)	233.58
Tools and machinery.....	3.15
Fuel	471.27
Light	1,095.50
Insurance	90.00
Expense	756.74
Furniture and fixtures	262.25
Improvement.....	559.92
Reserve fund.....	800.00
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1906.....	23.72
	<hr/> \$19,749.72

MEMBERSHIP

Memberships in force June 1, 1905.....	8,005
Memberships issued during the year, good for two years.....	4,499
Total	12,504
Memberships expired during the year.....	4,019
Memberships in force May 31, 1906	8,485

June 1, 1905— CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.		
Books in circulation	85,846 vols.	
Duplicates not in circulation		2,260 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated)		7,300 "
Losses—		
Lost and paid for	23 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn	1,119 "	
Total losses	1,142 vols.	
	84,704 vols.	
Additions—		
By purchase	4,042 vols.	
By donation	423 "	
By periodicals bound	535 "	
Total additions	5,000 vols.	
Total books in circulation		89,704 vols.
Duplicates not in use	2,281 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated)	8,044 "	10,325 "
Total contents May 31, 1906..		100,029 vols.

NUMBER OF PERIODICALS TAKEN AND ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE IN THE READING ROOM.

Dailies	12
Weeklies	63
Bi-weeklies	6
Monthlies	175
Bi-monthlies	6
Quarterlies	41
	303
Duplicates in circulation	33
Total	336

NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED.

Philosophy	1,418	.72
Theology	1,795	.92
Social and political science	1,995	1.02
Natural sciences and useful arts	9,135	4.66
Fine arts, poetry and music	3,669	1.87
Fiction	97,480	49.76
Juvenile fiction	52,097	26.59
Literary miscellany	6,616	3.38
History and travel	14,947	7.63
Cyclopædias and periodicals	6,768	3.45
	195,920	100.00
Of the above were issued at the library	169,419	
Of the above were issued at the schools and branch library	26,501	

195,920

Highest issue on any week day during 1905-1906, March 17, 1906	1,320
Lowest " " " " " " 1905-1906, June 6, 1905	292

DELINQUENTS.

Books kept overtime during the year	16,026
Number of fine notices sent	1,819
Number of notices for books reserved	866

SCHOOL AND BRANCH LIBRARY ISSUES.

	Harrison	Blaine	Garfield	Whittier	Douglas	Lee	Franklin	Glen Oak	Columbia	Branch	Total
Literature	296	82	682	60	351	12	15	15	.....	197	1,680
Science, art, religion	554	244	425	95	240	130	15	64	.....	580	2,297
History, biography, travel	1,442	722	598	699	565	284	65	131	4	2,348	6,888
Fiction, fairy tales	2,287	1,574	893	1,117	559	334	710	259	433	7,450	15,666
Total	4,579	2,622	2,568	1,971	1,715	810	805	469	437	10,525	26,501

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class, June 1, 1905, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the library, May 31, 1906.

	Total vols. in library May 31, 1905	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1905-1906	Total volumes in library May 31, 1906	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy	1,337	.....	1	1,336	50	1,386	1.55
Theology	3,295	.....	.....	3,295	118	3,413	3.80
Social and political sciences	11,454	1	.....	11,453	547	12,000	13.38
Natural sciences and useful arts	9,903	3	5	9,895	373	10,268	11.45
Fine arts and poetry	4,990	1	4	4,985	201	5,186	5.78
Vocal and instrumental music	538	.....	.....	538	55	593	.66
Fiction	13,118	11	401	12,706	1,340	14,046	15.66
Juvenile literature	10,689	5	695	9,989	1,201	11,190	12.47
Literary miscellany	6,567	1	9	6,557	289	6,846	7.63
History and travel	15,358	1	4	15,353	532	15,885	17.71
Cyclopedias and Periodicals	8,597	.....	.....	8,597	294	8,891	9.91
Total	85,846	23	1,119	84,704	5,000	89,704	100.00

CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English	4,792
German	143
French	7
Spanish	3
Vocal and instrumental music	55
Total	5,000
Purchased	4,042
Donations catalogued	423
Periodicals bound	535
Total	5,000

VOLUMES ISSUED FROM EACH CLASS.

	1881-1901	1901-1902	1902-1903	1903-1904	1904-1905	1905-1906
Philosophy	16,039	1,968	1,665	1,372	1,352	1,418
Theology	19,186	1,441	1,662	1,556	1,662	1,795
Social science	25,808	1,776	1,789	1,828	1,876	1,995
Natural science, useful arts	94,540	11,853	10,280	8,955	8,282	9,135
Fine arts, poetry and music	54,918	3,545	3,782	4,065	3,855	3,669
Fiction	1,002,062	81,836	83,067	81,393	87,029	97,480
Juvenile fiction	567,314	48,512	49,693	45,933	45,289	52,097
Literary miscellany	70,345	5,997	5,323	6,080	5,730	6,616
History and travel	211,672	20,633	19,323	17,306	13,982	14,947
Cyclopædias and periodicals	79,763	5,939	6,316	6,212	5,863	6,768
Total	2,141,647	183,500	182,900	174,700	174,920	195,920

PERCENTAGE OF ISSUE FROM EACH CLASS, 1881-1906.

	1881-1901	1901-1902	1902-1903	1903-1904	1904-1905	1905-1906
Philosophy	0.67	1.07	0.91	0.78	0.77	0.72
Theology	0.87	0.78	0.91	0.89	0.95	0.92
Social science	1.16	0.97	0.98	1.05	1.07	1.02
Natural science, useful arts	4.12	6.46	5.62	5.13	4.74	4.66
Fine arts, poetry and music	2.45	1.93	2.07	2.33	2.20	1.87
Fiction	47.48	44.60	45.42	46.59	49.75	49.76
Juvenile fiction	27.15	26.44	27.17	26.29	25.89	26.59
Literary miscellany	3.20	3.27	2.91	3.48	3.28	3.38
History and travel	9.32	11.24	10.56	9.91	8.00	7.63
Cyclopædias and periodicals	3.58	3.24	3.45	3.55	3.35	3.45
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

BINDERY.

Books bound	630
Newspapers bound	34
Books rebound	2,586
Books repaired	3,224
Portfolios made	38
Total	6,512

32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	f°	Total
2	38	383	1989	562	154	122	3,250
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes							3,262
							6,512
Books repaired by desk assistant.							1,283
Total							7,795
Current magazines covered							450
Members' cards folded and pasted							9,325

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
COUNTY OF PEORIA. } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of June, A.D., 1906, by
E. S. Willcox. EMMA DONNELLY, Notary Public.

[SEAL]



PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Fiftieth Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1907



Report of the Directors.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Peoria.

GENTLEMEN:—The Directors of the Peoria Public Library submit to you, herewith, their twenty-seventh annual report.

The financial and statistical tables, compiled by the Librarian and approved by the Board, set forth facts in figures which we feel ought to be a source of satisfaction and pleasure to those interested in the work of a Public Library. We wish to call special attention to the introductory remarks of the Librarian. They express wisdom, experience and a clear comprehension of the needs of a Public Library, and set forth the policy of our own.

The Directors, as a body, have been faithful in their attendance upon all the meetings of the Board during the year, and have done what they could to make the Library all it should be to this community.

The grounds upon which the building stands have been drained, graded and beautified and improvements have been made in heating, lighting and ventilating our splendid building.

We have sought in every possible way, to meet the demands of the public in comfort and in service. Special effort has been made to ascertain the books and periodicals wanted by the different professions and the reading public, and that want has been met when known. We are largely indebted to the Librarian and his able and obliging assistants for the satisfactory results attained. Their arduous work can only be appreciated by those who have availed themselves of the privileges of the Library.

We should have additional branch Libraries—one should be opened at Averyville at once. The one in South Peoria which is doing splendid work should be greatly enlarged. This we cannot do with our present appropriation. We trust your Honorable Body will appreciate the situation, and grant us the maximum to which the Library is entitled under the law.

We feel sure the public appreciate the rare advantages of the Library as one of the greatest educational institutions in our city, and as their servants we will seek to increase its efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN E. KEENE, President.

Report of the Librarian.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg to submit the Librarian's report of the Peoria Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1907—the 27th annual report of the free Public Library and the 50th annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in the autumn of 1855.

Detailed statistics will be found at the end.

MEMBERSHIP.

Our membership one year ago was 8,485, it is now 8,526, a slight gain of 41 only, but still the largest in our history. Membership, it will be understood, is good for two years only, thus dropping out any who may not be active members.

CIRCULATION.

Our home circulation for the year, not counting reference work or general reading done in the library, shows a slight falling off from that of one year ago, being 191,600 volumes as compared with 195,920 the year before, a loss of 4,320. It is a terrific competition that good books have to face now-a-days with the daily newspaper and the deluge of illustrated magazines.

WHO ARE THE PRINCIPAL PATRONS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY?

All lovers of books are, more or less frequently, patrons of the public library—the entire body of students, investigators, club women preparing papers for their season's programmes, a few lawyers, doctors and preachers who need some sweets with their more solid meat, and then fiction readers, pure and simple, tired men and women, lonesome people with time on their hands and unfulfilled desires.

Comparatively few business men visit the library, they read newspapers. Matthew Arnold said if he lived to be eighty he should probably be the only man in England who read anything but newspapers and scientific reports. Besides, people are more and more buying libraries of their own; for a good book that is

worth reading is worth owning, if you can afford it. And, no doubt, a choice, well selected library like ours has its influence in bringing about this purchase of home libraries; but of the lavishly advertised fiction of the day only a small per cent. is of such value as to merit individual ownership. For fiction therefore, the average reader goes to the public library, and it is this which will always make our fiction issues seem disproportionately large. Of course, the reading of a good novel now and then is not to be disparaged; it is interesting, possibly instructive and often stimulating.

We none of us can ever be entirely happy, but we can be busy, therefore we resort to books to fill in the empty spaces in our lives.

Let it not be forgotten, however, that in addition to the usual amount of fiction and juveniles that are the principal issues of all public libraries, some 42,254 volumes of good, solid reading—science, art, history, biography and travels—were issued also.

BRANCHES.

Our ten libraries placed at the opening of the school year in as many different schools farthest from the main library, issued 13,953 volumes and the Branch library at the Neighborhood House, 2000 South Washington street, which is open evenings only and under the efficient management of Miss Louise Anderson, issued 12,729 volumes—a gain of 2,204 over last year—a total altogether of 26,682.

With the completion of the new High School building on Lincoln avenue, we ought to equip another branch in one of its rooms there, and with the contemplated annexation of Averyville to our city, a branch library will be needed in the upper part of our city also.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

The number of volumes added to our collection during the year was 4,700 which, making allowance for books lost and paid for (29) or worn out and withdrawn, mostly fiction (1,232)—a total of 1,261 volumes, makes or should make the* number now on our shelves in circulation 93,143 or, including duplicates (2,290),

*See report of inventory.

a total of 95,433. This does not include our large and valuable collection of pamphlets (9,472) which would make a grand total of 104,905.

Among our more important purchases during the year are the following:

Bess. Eine populäre Geschichte der Stadt Peoria.
 Utley and Cutcheon. Michigan as a province. 4 vols.
 Hooke's Roman history. 1830. 6 vols.
 Cust's annals. 9 vols.
 Hale. Modern achievement. 10 vols.
 Lincoln's complete works. Gettysburg ed. 12 vols.
 New England historical and genealogical register. 1862. Reprint.
 London magazine. Jan. 1820—June 1821. 3 vols.
 Page. Complete works. 12 vols.
 History of all nations. 24 vols.
 Norrœna. Viking ed. 15 vols.
 Holmes. Complete writings. Autocrat ed. 13 vols.
 Longfellow. Complete writings. Craigie ed. 11 vols.
 Bryan ed. World's famous orations. 10 vols.
 Library of home economics. 12 vols.
 Nouveau Larousse. Supplemental vol.
 Americana: a universal reference library. 16 vols.
 La Follette ed. Making of America. 10 vols.
 Dio's Rome. 6 vols.
 Catholic encyclopedia. (Subscribed for) 15 vols.

We have now histories of the following thirty-three Illinois regiments:

Cavalry, 8th, 9th and 14th regiments.

Infantry, 2d, 7th, 9th, 10th, 13th, 32d, 33d, 34th, 36th, 39th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 50th, 55th, 59th, 73d, 75th, 77th, 84th, 85th, 86th, 95th, 96th, 102d, 103d, 104th, 112th, 115th and 124th.

INVENTORY.

Our biennial inventory was necessarily omitted last year. The one just completed covers, therefore, a period of three years and shows a loss of 296 volumes, or an average for the period, of 99 volumes a year less one volume, viz:

German	39
Non-fiction	72
Fiction	89
Juveniles	96

A few of these missing books may yet be discovered or furtively returned, but the lamentable fact remains that we have had nearly 100 volumes a year stolen.

In explanation I should say, we keep some 700 of our latest non-fiction and something like a thousand juveniles on open shelves accessible to the public. Excepting these and large works of reference like cyclopedias, dictionaries, etc., our books are kept in classified order in the stack room, yet we admit to the privileges of the stack room by special permission in the course of the year many different persons supposed to be trustworthy.

Of these 296 books missing, some of them very valuable and hard to be replaced, 175 were on open shelves or lying exposed on the counter for examination, 121 were from the stacks. How these latter were taken we do not know unless, having been handed out for examination or reading in the room, they were secretly carried off without being charged.

Saying nothing about the demoralizing effect upon our young people of our quietly submitting to or winking at this theft of books constantly going on—books which are public property and can be had for the asking and the stroke of a dating pencil, without smirching one's soul with the crime of thieving—this being wantonly robbed by friends we are waiting to serve is one of our most exasperating experiences.

And I make this appeal to every man, woman and child in our city to assist us in detecting the thieves, in finding the stolen books and in putting an end to the petty pilfering of valuable works from their public library.

It may not be amiss to append here the audit of the librarian's accounts made by order of the board in 1905, and covering the preceding five years and nine months.

*Mr. Alexander G. Tyng, Chairman of the Finance Committee
of Peoria Public Library, Peoria.*

DEAR SIR:—Pursuant to the instructions of your committee to examine and audit the books of account of the Peoria Public Library from Jan. 1, 1900, to Oct. 1, 1905, I beg leave to report that I have completed that work, and that I find the said accounts to be in perfect balance. They have been accurately and very neatly kept and reflect the highest credit upon the librarian and his book-keeper. I find every item of receipts properly entered and a proper voucher, approved by the proper officials and committee, showing every item of disbursements for the period above named.

Owing to the excellent condition and absolute accuracy of these accounts, the work of examination has been speedily and easily accomplished, and I beg leave to say that in my opinion your committee and all concerned have excellent reason to feel proud of the system and efficiency of the Peoria Public Library.

Very respectfully submitted, JOHN MCALLISTER.

Peoria, Ill., October 19, 1905.

The audit made by Mr. Bannister one year later, Nov. 21, 1906, was equally satisfactory.

COMPARISONS MAY BE ODIUS.

The following table which I find in a late and lively library annual report, claims to show the number of books circulated per attendant per annum in a few of our larger public libraries, viz:

Louisville	2,248
Boston.....	4,348
Worcester	5,984
Syracuse.....	7,652
Chicago.....	8,351
Brooklyn	11,322
Washington.....	11,666
Detroit	13,499
Los Angeles	14,738

To which I add Peoria23,717

Excepting my own I neither vouch for nor question these figures; let such estimates count for what they are worth, but we must remember there is much subsidiary work to be done in every library along with the issuing of books, and the older and larger the library the more deliberate and self-respecting its motions. Nor do I doubt there may be smaller libraries in our state that can make a better showing than any of us.

Another interesting question is: how long does it take on the average to issue any book called for.

This again is affected by the size of the library and the construction of the building. In the Boston Public Library, the great and honored forerunner of us all with its 687,456 volumes and its badly planned stack rooms, it takes, according to a late report, ten minutes.

The average of three trial tests made by us on Saturdays at our busiest hours, was 307 books in 101 minutes, or a trifle more than three a minute.

It is no more than fair to add, however, that these tests being made on Saturdays, a larger proportion than usual was of fiction, which is easily reached from the delivery desk. Our patrons are evidently conscientious and opposed to doing any work like stiff reading on Sunday.

But, after all, the real test of the usefulness of a library lies in its ability not only to hand out the latest new novel promptly, but, far more exacting than that, to answer every reasonable demand made upon it for the latest, most reliable information on the ten thousand different subjects of human inquiry constantly arising. This means labor, it means study, it means foresight and preparation in the supplying of books, and, not one whit less, does it mean intelligence, experience and quick responsive knowledge on the part of the assistants at the delivery desk.

It is they to whom the public apply and whose patience is often tried, whose amiability must never show wear and who must have at least a speaking acquaintance with nearly everything under the sun. Waiter boys, runners who can read the Dewey numbers on the back of a book on the shelves cannot fill the bill; nothing less than some knowledge of the contents of books and their values will do, and this means years of experience and study. It means a sympathetic and responsive interest in every want expressed or dimly felt, whether by the scholar pursuing some recondite subject or the child just discovering a new world—a world of books, or the child's tired mother seeking diversion and relief from care.

To illustrate by contrast; one of my assistants on her vacation lately visited, very naturally, the public library in one of our largest eastern cities. She found near the entrance a half dozen or more ladylike assistants entrenched within a large ring or circular counter sitting comfortably waiting. A small wicket on one side admitted to the stack room behind them, and another on the opposite side offered a way of exit. She asked for a certain book and with a gracious wave of the hand was told to go in and help herself.

There in the alcoves before her was a library of more than a hundred thousand books and a hundred or more people rummaging among them, helping themselves. How could she, a

stranger, ignorant of the classification and shelf arrangement, knowing how liable books were to be missing or misplaced in such a scramble—how could she find any particular book in the half hour's time at her disposal? She sat down dismayed and left.

The system in use in that library is what is known as the Open Shelf System—where the fashion is, "go as you please through our whole collection, they are there for you, help yourself." The first explorer who ventured some ten years ago into this unknown sea of open shelf for our larger libraries may have felt like Columbus when he thought he had discovered America, it has turned out to be only Cat Island.

Wherever inventories have been taken, and they are frequently shirked, the library boards are amazed at the losses by theft and by mutilation of many of their most precious volumes.

Of the few who have had the courage to take an inventory, one library reported 1000 volumes a year for four years and went back to the old way. The Boston Public Library reported in 1905 a loss of 1,693 volumes in one year, the Providence Public Library the same year 1,796, the Los Angeles Public Library 4,044 a year for two years and 2,988 the last year reported. They are at their wit's end. They begin to realize that the Open Shelf is only another word for self-slaughter.

For a great library is a great treasure house of priceless wealth, the gathered experience and wisdom of 6,000 years of our race. To guard the valuable deposits there with less watchfulness than our banks do their treasures would be encouraging theft.

Go to your bank and ask for \$100. The paying teller points to the trays of gold and silver inside and asks you to be so good as to walk right in and help yourself, only please leave your check as you pass out for the amount you have taken; and your bank's visible cash would have disappeared before three o'clock.

No one can be better aware than I that our library is not perfect, it has its deficiencies which are supplied as fast as we learn them and to the extent of our means, but it does not run to fads. We try to have a fair supply of the latest and best on all subjects and thankfully accept suggestions from our friends; in a word, to have a well balanced collection of books. Perhaps I am

a little proud of it as such, but I am still more proud of my corps of intelligent, willing assistants, whose industry, knowledge and amiability are known of all men and particularly of all women and children in our city.

During the year we have prepared and published a supplement of 134 pages to our classified catalogue covering the accessions from January 1, 1899, to July, 1907; the catalogue and supplement making now a handsome royal octavo of 357 pages, which we hope may be appreciated and made use of by our public to some extent corresponding to the amount of hard work spent upon it. Price at the desk only 40c.

At the same time we published a finding list of 10 pages of music and musical literature now in our library—a department of our work highly appreciated and constantly patronized by our musical people. Price 5c.

Of periodicals we take regularly 262 which are always accessible in the reading room and constantly in use, thus constituting a great attraction to the library especially for grown people.

At the annual meeting of our State Library Association in Bloomington, February 20-22, our library was represented by Mr. Vandervort, Miss McIlvaine and the librarian—an interesting and profitable meeting of a hundred or more of the state library workers.

To our daily newspapers—the Herald-Transcript, Star and Journal we owe thanks for numerous friendly allusions to our library as a prominent factor in our educational system and for publishing weekly lists of new books. To the Journal we are especially indebted for publishing quarterly our long list of latest additions.

With thanks to each one of my assistants in all departments for faithful work performed and for the always pleasant relations they have maintained with one another and with our public, and with thanks to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors for the watchful interest you have shown in your charge and for your continued confidence, I am,

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1906-1907.

RECEIPTS

From city appropriation.....	\$18,657.65
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1906.....	24.72
Rent	800.00
Fines	596.92
Books damaged and paid for	7.00
Books lost and paid for	20.50
Extra books loaned.....	24.75
Duplicate cards issued	17.85
Reserve postal cards.....	20.00
Memberships	26.75
Catalogues sold.....	12.80
Waste paper sold.....	14.80
	<hr/> \$20,223.24

EXPENDITURES

Books	\$ 4,103.78
Periodicals	881.44
Stationery	354.63
Salaries	7,216.85
Janitor service.....	1,146.00
Binding labor	1,979.18
Binding materials.....	254.50
Fuel	466.76
Light	701.25
Insurance	17.20
Expense	626.92
Furniture and fixtures	79.35
Improvement.....	1,583.43
Reserve fund.....	800.00
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1907.....	11.95
	<hr/> \$20,223.24

MEMBERSHIP.

Memberships in force June 1, 1906.....	8,485
Memberships issued during the year, good for two years	4,029
Total.....	12,514
Memberships expired during the year.....	3,988
Memberships in force May 31, 1907.....	8,526

June 1, 1906— CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.			
Books in circulation.....	89,704 vols.		
Duplicates not in circulation.....		2,281 vols.	
Unbound pamphlets (estimated)		8,044 "	
Losses—			
Lost and paid for.	29 vols.		
Worn out and withdrawn.....	1,232 "		
Total losses.....		1,261 vols.	
Additions—		88,443 vols.	
By purchase	3,877 vols.		
By donation.....	459 "		
By periodicals bound	364 "		
Total additions.....		4,700 vols.	
Total books in circulation.....		93,143 vols.	
Duplicates not in use	2,290 vols.		
Pamphlets (estimated).....	9,472 "	11,762 "	
Total contents May 31, 1907.....		104,905 "	

NUMBER OF PERIODICALS TAKEN AND ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE IN THE READING ROOM.

Dailies	12
Weeklies.....	54
Bi-Weeklies	6
Monthlies	174
Bi-monthlies.....	11
Quarterlies	45
	302
Duplicates in circulation.....	39
Total	341

NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED.

Philosophy	1,250	.65
Theology	1,746	.91
Social and political science	1,728	.90
Natural sciences and useful arts.....	7,746	4.04
Fine arts, poetry and music	3,719	1.94
Fiction	100,612	52.51
Juvenile fiction.....	48,734	25.44
Literary miscellany.....	6,628	3.46
History and travel.....	12,673	6.62
Cyclopaedias and periodicals	6,764	3.53
	191,600	100.00
Of the above were issued at the library	164,918	
Of the above were issued at the schools and branch library	26,682	
	191,600	

Highest issue on any week day during 1906-1907, Feb. 23, 1907 ..	1,369
Lowest issue on any week day during 1906-1907, Sept. 23, 1906	208

DELINQUENTS.

Books kept overtime during the year	13,487
Number of fine notices sent	1,913
Number of notices for books reserved	1,446

SCHOOL AND BRANCH LIBRARY ISSUES.

	Harrison	Garfield	Douglas	Whittier	Lee	Blaine	Sumner	Franklin	Glen Oak	Columbia	Branch	Total
Literature	181	760	444	99	48	51	18	7	19	7	305	1,939
Science, art, religion.....	231	290	260	92	102	53	127	41	76	27	489	1,788
History, biography, travel.....	991	855	671	515	178	223	377	86	173	67	1,745	5,881
Fiction, fairy tales.....	1,351	825	642	1,016	822	794	343	556	232	303	10,190	17,074
Total.....	2,754	2,730	2,017	1,722	1,150	1,121	865	690	500	404	12,729	26,682

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class, June 1, 1906, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the library, May 31, 1907.

	Total vols. in library May 31, 1906	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1906-1907	Total volumes in library May 31, 1907	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy	1,386	.....	6	1,380	70	1,450	1.56
Theology	3,413	.....	2	3,411	151	3,562	3.82
Social and Political sciences.....	12,000	.....	.....	12,000	420	12,420	13.33
Natural sciences and useful arts	10,268	.....	14	10,254	397	10,651	11.44
Fine arts and poetry.....	5,186	2	6	5,178	159	5,337	5.73
Vocal and instrumental music.....	593	.....	.....	593	67	660	.71
Fiction.....	14,046	15	620	13,411	1,259	14,670	15.75
Juvenile literature.....	11,190	11	558	10,621	1,218	11,839	12.71
Literary miscellany.....	6,846	1	11	6,834	239	7,073	7.59
History and travel.....	15,885	.....	14	15,871	476	16,347	17.55
Cyclopaedias and periodicals.....	8,891	.....	1	8,890	244	9,134	9.81
Total.....	89,704	29	1,232	88,443	4,700	93,143	100.00

CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English.....	4,516
German.....	103
French.....	12
Russian.....	1
Yiddish.....	1
Vocal and instrumental music.....	67
Total.....	4,700
Purchased.....	3,877
Donations catalogued.....	459
Periodicals bound.....	364
Total.....	4,700

VOLUMES AND PERCENTAGE OF ISSUES FROM EACH CLASS.

	1906-1907	Per. Cent. 1906-1907
Philosophy.....	1,250	.65
Theology.....	1,746	.91
Social science.....	1,728	.90
Natural science, useful arts.....	7,746	4.04
Fine arts, poetry and music.....	3,719	1.94
Fiction.....	100,612	52.52
Juvenile fiction.....	48,784	25.44
Literary miscellany.....	6,628	3.46
History and travel.....	12,673	6.62
Cyclopaedias and periodicals.....	6,764	3.53
Total.....	191,600	100.00

BINDERY.

Books bound.....	480
Newspapers bound.....	37
Books rebound.....	2,860
Books repaired.....	4,477
Portfolios made.....	92
Total.....	7,946

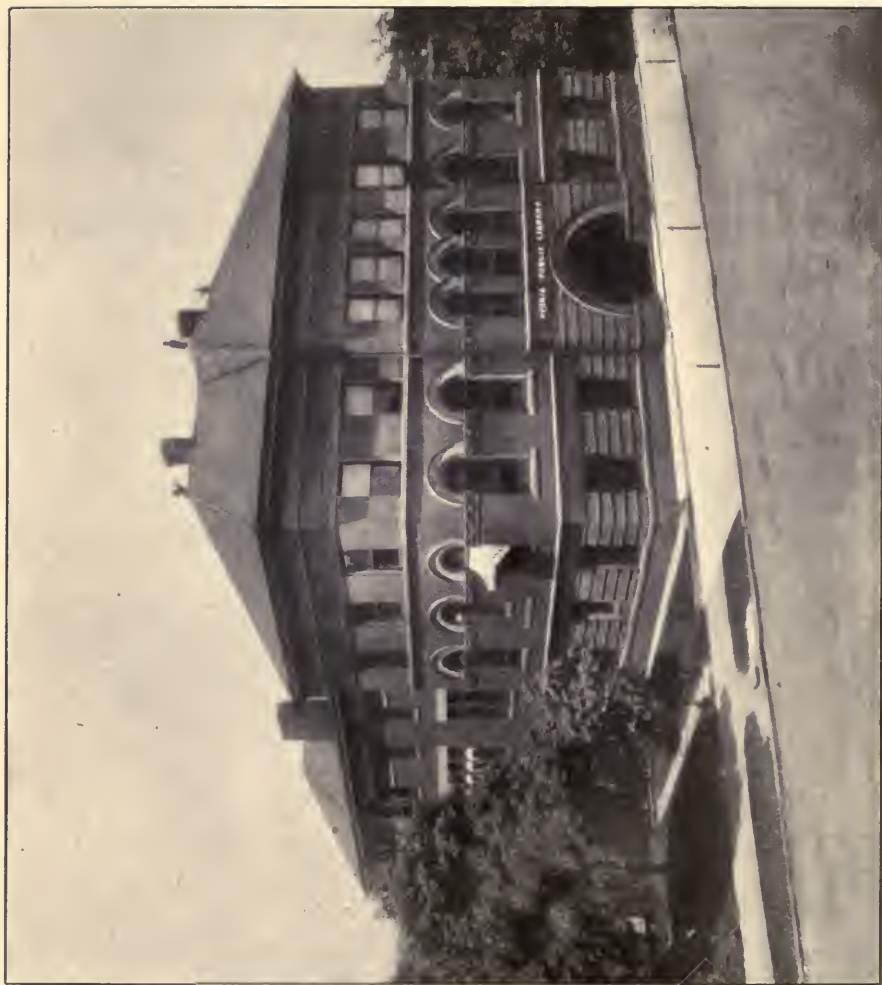
32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	f°	Total
3	53	417	2067	604	134	99.....	3,377
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes							4,569
							<hr/> 7,946
Current magazines covered.....							496
Membership cards folded and pasted.....							9,100

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
COUNTY OF PEORIA. } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of June, A. D. 1907, by
E. S. Willcox. EMMA DONNELLY, Notary Public.

[SEAL]



PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE
TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Fifty-First Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1908

EDWARD HINE & CO., PRINTERS

**DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.**

John S. Lee	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold	1884 " 1896
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " 1908
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " 1904
Dan F. Raum.....	1886 " 1889
Thos F. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " 1902
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead	1897 " 1900
James P. Nailon	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington.....	1898 " 1904
Max Newman	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1899 " 1902
John E. Keene	1900 " date
James M. Quinn.....	1900 " date
Alexander G. Tyng.....	1902 " date
Frank J. Quinn	1902 " 1908
John Birks.....	1904 " 1907
Alexander Glass	1904 " 1905
C. R. Vandervort	1905 " 1907
Peter Casey	1907
Robert W. Anderson.....	1907
Harry M. Pindell.....	1908
Zachariah P. Siebrecht..	1908

Population of Peoria in 190056,100
Special census report 190565,026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1908-1909

THOMAS M. MCILVAINE, 516 Main St.....	Term expires	1909
JOHN E. KEENE, 301 S. Jefferson Ave.....	"	" 1909
JAMES M. QUINN, Chamber of Commerce	"	" 1909
BERNARD CREMER, Peoria Demokrat.....	"	" 1910
PETER CASEY, Corning Distillery.....	"	" 1910
ROBERT W. ANDERSON, 120 S. Adams St.....	"	" 1910
ALEXANDER G. TYNG, Chamber of Commerce.....	"	" 1911
HARRY M. PINDELL, Journal Office	"	" 1911
ZACHARIAH P. SIEBRECHT, 701 State St.....	"	" 1911

OFFICERS

JOHN E. KEENE.....	<i>President.</i>
ALEXANDER G. TYNG.....	<i>Vice-President.</i>
B. CREMER.....	<i>Secretary.</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance and Auditing—Tyng, Quinn, Anderson.

Books—Cremer, Casey, Pindell.

Executive—Keene (ex-officio), McIlvaine, Siebrecht.

LIBRARY SERVICE

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian.*

ANNA L. ARCHER, *Cataloguer and Assistant Librarian.*

Helen M. Ballard	Dallas R. Sweney,
Louise L. Booth,	Fannie Mayo Seabury,
Margaret M. McIlvaine,	Nella B. Beeson,
George Zimmermann, ^a	Hazel A. Page.
Elizabeth Buchanan, ^b	

Evening Attendant—N. N. McLaughlin.

Branch Library; Evenings:

Louise Anderson, Augusta Anderson.

In the Bindery:

Richard J. Cross,	Margaret A. Theena,
Rachel Garrabrant,	Daisy Wetzler.

Engineer—Chas. A. McMullen.

Janitress—Mrs. Mary Fogle.

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays (July and August excepted), from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

^aAfter School hours. ^bOccasional.

Report of the Directors.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Peoria.

GENTLEMEN:—We submit to you herewith the Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

It consists principally of the report of the Librarian and the Board of Directors, and the financial and statistical tables compiled by him and approved by the Board.

We invite your careful attention to the report of the Librarian and to the figures given in the statistics, showing the magnitude of the Library and its splendid growth in number of books and in circulation.

The citizens of Peoria have just reason for pride in this institution. It is *our* institution, created by our fathers, and supported by their children. It is not a gift of outsiders either in building or equipment. It was paid for by our citizens, is sustained by our citizens and ought to be fully appreciated and patronized by our citizens. We urge all, therefore, young and old, to visit the Library, and avail themselves of its splendid privileges.

The Librarian and his efficient and obliging corps of assistants are ready and willing at all times to give kindly and courteous attention to those who call. We are indebted to them for their faithful service. They have made the Library largely what it is.

The Directors are doing all they know how to make the Library answer the highest demands of the public. They feel that a carefully indexed catalogue of books in hand, with experienced attendants to find them, insures better service to the public than the "open shelf," as practiced by some libraries.

The Directors invite suggestions as to any improvements that can be made in the greater usefulness of this Library.

During the past year we have organized a Children's Department, and have placed it in charge of a competent assistant. A splendid work is being done in that department.

The increasing demands of a growing city make the financial requirements of the Library more and more each year. This we feel you will appreciate, and, in the interests of our citizens, will grant the needed help.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN E. KEENE, President.

Report of the Librarian.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg to submit the Librarian's report of the Peoria Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1908—the 28th annual report of the free Public Library and the 51st annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in the autumn of 1855.

Detailed statistics will be found, as usual, at the end.

The annual report of what a well-established and smoothly running public library has been doing does not vary much from year to year. Like any other business it has its regular daily routine of trying, to the best of its means and ability, to serve its public, to answer demands; in our case, demands for wholesome and instructive reading matter—the latest, best books and current periodicals—and, a most important function, to give, through its reference department, prompt and satisfactory answers to innumerable inquiries on all kinds of subjects from students, investigators and reading clubs, and this to be done by quick, responsive, trained, intelligent assistants.

Our public, so far as we can judge, appreciate the work we do and are grateful to the city of Peoria for maintaining so generously such an institution as the Peoria Public Library.

The public library of to-day has grown to be a part of our educational system, a post graduate school for everybody.

One loss that I cannot help mentioning we have suffered during the year, the resignation, reluctantly on her part, owing to impaired health, of Miss Elizabeth T. Ellis.

Miss Ellis had served the public faithfully for 16 years, the latter half of the time as reference librarian. Her absence from her accustomed seat in the corner of our open reading room has been a matter of unfeigned regret to hundreds of our best and oldest members as well as to the library board and our entire library staff.

MEMBERSHIP.

Our membership, good for two years only, is, at the end of the year, 8,490, or 36 less than on our last year's report.

CIRCULATION.

Our home circulation one year ago was 191,600, this year 199,735, a small gain of 8,135 volumes.

With no end of daily papers and cheap, attractive periodicals claiming our attention every spare hour of the day, how many of us men folks find time to sit down and enjoy a good book these days?

BRANCHES.

Our ten libraries, placed at the beginning of each school year in as many schools farthest from the main library, issued 13,007 volumes as against 13,953 a year ago, while the branch library at Neighborhood House, 2000 S. Washington street, under the efficient care of the Misses Louise and Augusta Anderson, during evenings only, issued 14,107 volumes, a slight gain over last year's issue—a total issue, schools and branch, of 27,114 volumes, a gain of 432 volumes.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

The number of volumes added to the library during the year was 4,200 and the total number now in circulation is 96,046. This does not include duplicates not in circulation, 2,291, nor pamphlets, 11,032, a grand total of 109,369.

Among our more important purchases during the year are:

Congress of arts and sciences. Louisiana purchase exposition. 8 vols.

Buckley. Fine arts. 3 vols.

Muther. History of modern painting. Rev. ed. 4 vols.

Fleming. Documentary history of reconstruction. 2 vols.

Letters of Queen Victoria. 3 vols.

DeBerard. Classic tales by famous authors. 20 vols.

Hugo. Works. LaVendée edition de luxe. 10 vols.

De Musset. Complete writings. 10 vols.

Lincoln. Life and works. Centenary ed. 9 vols.

Aldrich. Writings. Ponkapog ed. 9 vols.

Library of natural history. 5 vols.

American history and encyclopedia of music. (Subscribed for.)

Cyclopedia of engineering. 5 vols.

Cyclopedia of applied electricity. 5 vols.

Cyclopedia of modern shop practice. 4 vols.

Bailey. Cyclopedia of American agriculture. (Subscribed for.)

Journal of the Franklin Institute. 1845, 1855, 1871-1873.

North American review. vols. 1-4. 1815-1819.

Magazine of American history. Complete index, 1877-1893.

Herman Goedsche. Works. 40 vols. (German.)

GIFTS.

The following gifts have been received among others:

From Mrs. Cornelia Fulton, one old Bible, quarto, printed in Birmingham, England, in 1776.

From Mr. Eliot Callender, *The Black Hawk War*, by J. A. Wakefield, 1834. Works of Josephus, quarto, 1792.

From Mr. Wm. H. Mills, 2 bound volumes of the *New York Mirror*, 1834-1836.

From the library of the late Major H. W. Wells, for 18 years a valued working member of the Public Library Board, 135 miscellaneous volumes, and from Mrs. Wells an excellent life size bust of Major Wells.

From Mrs. Mary Stetson Clarke, *The Iliad and Odyssey*, Bryant's translation, 4 volumes; *The Turner Gallery*, 2 large volumes, and a large framed photograph of Michael Angelo's fresco in the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, Rome 28x72 inches large.

THE BINDERY.

Our bindery with one foreman and four young lady assistants has been busy, the heaviest part of our work being the rebinding of 2558 volumes, and repairing 5690 volumes, which, if well bound originally by the publishers, ought not to have needed it at all, or at least not the half of it; mostly fiction of course.

Beside these we bound 587 volumes new, principally our periodicals, and 24 volumes of our local papers.

CHILDREN'S ROOM.

When our Library building was erected in 1897, a large children's room on the ground floor was in the plan, but as our delivery room on the second floor was ample for immediate needs this proposed children's room was leased temporarily to the school board, and the children along with adults were served from one desk in the large room. But in the eleven years since then our Library has grown from 58,105 volumes to 96,046 volumes, a gain of over 65%, and our annual home circulation, not to mention reference work, from 138,464 to 199,735, a gain of more than 44%, and still with no increase in our number of assistants, 7 then as 7 now.

The consequent crowding of old and young at the delivery desk during rush hours made it desirable to divide the work. This was done at the beginning of the year, in January, by throwing a row of book cases across the southeast end of the reading

room near the head of the stairs, these cases being 5 feet, or 4 shelves high, and filled on the inner side with children's books, on the reading room side with cyclopedias, dictionaries and other works of reference. This gave us a large, attractive and well lighted children's room, and did not shut it off entirely from the larger room, as would a partition reaching to the ceiling. Entrance to this room is by a gate at the head of the stairs. Here, in cases around the four sides and in three six-foot double cases on the floor, we have more than 6000 volumes of juvenile literature of all classes, with tables and chairs in plenty and a librarian on duty to issue and discharge books and to assist with advice.

In making this arrangement we were happy in having suggestions and encouragement from the Mothers' Club of our city.

LIBRARY WORK.

Thirty-eight years ago a library like ours of 100,000 volumes would have been counted among the largest in the country. It is perhaps no longer so but it is still a very large library and the administration of its affairs demands labor and foresight hardly less exacting than do our large business enterprises; not so wearing, it is true, for the public library is free from the competitions of trade, it stands apart, intrenched and impregnable in public favor.

Nevertheless the executive officer, the librarian of a large library, has work to do in plenty.

If the library is to fill the full measure of its usefulness, meet all reasonable requirements as a library, keep abreast of the march of events and honor every draft for information or wholesome entertainment made upon its accumulated deposits there will be no end of work for the librarian and his entire force of trained assistants.

The librarian, under the instructions of his Board, is in responsible charge of a great treasure house of human learning, the gathered experience and wisdom of our race, the story of all worth preserving that has been said and done in the past and of all that is being said and done by the restless sons of men in our day, and it is his duty to keep all this wealth of learning safe; and not only safe but usable, completely classified, catalogued and ready to hand out to any inquirer at a moment's notice.

What trained intelligence, what labor on the part of the entire library force this means only librarians know.

The librarian must be something of a scholar but not a scholar only; he must be something of a business man also.

He must call to his aid educated, alert and willing assistants and he or his assistants must be acquainted with other languages and other literatures than our own as well as with the main currents of thought in our time.

Like the merchant or manufacturer he must look ahead and anticipate carefully what his public is likely to want in the near future. And he must strive to arouse and stimulate a love for good books and high ideals in our youth, for here in a library, in the company, as it were, of the great and good of all time—the poets, prophets, priests and teachers of the ages—in their sacred presence—is the place to bow the head in reverence, to take off the hat and speak low, that our youth may learn to respect whatever in words or in actions is noble and of good report—in a word, it is the place to learn among other excellent lessons, the lesson of good manners.

To our daily press, the Journal, Star and Herald-Transcript, we owe thanks for numerous friendly notices of our work and for publishing weekly lists of new books. To the Journal we are especially indebted for publishing our quarterly long list of latest additions.

With thanks to each of my assistants in all departments for faithful work performed and for the always pleasant relations they have maintained with one another and with our public, and with thanks to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors for the watchful interest you have shown in your charge and for your continued confidence, I am,

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1907-1908.

RECEIPTS

From city appropriation.....	\$17,165.58
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1907.....	11.95
Rent	800.00
Fines	845.07
Books damaged and paid for.....	6.70
Books lost and paid for.....	22.72
Extra books loaned	38.00
Duplicate cards issued.....	17.75
Reserve postal cards.....	15.00
Memberships	22.25
Catalogues sold.....	21.60
Waste paper sold	8.27
Insurance dividend.....	8.60
	<hr/> \$18,983.49

EXPENDITURES

Books	\$ 3,709.99
Periodicals	904.74
Stationery	341.38
Salaries	7,432.25
Janitor service.....	1,146.00
Binding labor.....	2,141.06
Binding materials.....	343.13
Fuel	532.68
Expense	780.99
Catalogue	288.40
Furniture and fixtures.....	128.93
Improvement	373.00
Reserve fund.....	800.00
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1908.....	60.94
	<hr/> \$18,983.49

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership in force June 1, 1907.....	8,526
Memberships issued during the year, good for two years.....	4,463
Total	<hr/> 12,989
Memberships expired during the year	4,499
Memberships in force May 31, 1908.....	<hr/> 8,490

June 1, 1907—			CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.	
Books in circulation	93,143 vols.			
Duplicates not in circulation		2,290 vols.		
Unbound pamphlets (estimated)		9,472 "		
Losses—				
Lost and paid for	27 vols.			
Worn out and withdrawn	1,270 "			
Total losses		1,297 vols.		
Additions—		91,846 vols.		
By purchase	3,520 vols.			
By donation	246 "			
By periodicals bound	434 "			
Total additions		4,200 vols.		
Total books in circulation		96,046 vols.		
Duplicates not in use		2,291 vols.		
Pamphlets (estimated)		11,032 "	13,323 "	
Total contents May 31, 1908		109,369 "		

NUMBER OF PERIODICALS TAKEN AND ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE IN THE
READING ROOM.

Dailies	12
Weeklies	54
Bi-weeklies	5
Monthlies	167
Bi-monthlies	14
Quarterlies	43
	295
Duplicates in circulation	39
Total	334

VOLUMES AND PERCENTAGE OF ISSUES FROM EACH CLASS.

	1907-1908	Per cent. 1907-1908
Philosophy	1,454	.73
Theology	1,704	.85
Social science	1,916	.96
Natural science, useful arts	8,260	4.14
Fine arts, poetry and music	4,003	2.00
Fiction	102,699	51.42
Juvenile fiction	51,018	25.54
Literary miscellany	6,440	3.22
History and travel	14,068	7.04
Cyclopaedias and periodicals	8,173	4.10
Total	199,735	100.00

Of the above were issued at the Library 172,621
 Of the above were issued at the schools and branch library 27,114

199,735

SCHOOL AND BRANCH LIBRARY ISSUES.

	Harrison	Garfield	Lee	Sumner	Douglas	Whittier	Blaine	Glen Oak	Columbia	Franklin	Branch	Total
Literature	218	568	132	81	189	70	17	30	89	21	212	1,627
Science, art, religion	226	222	226	159	176	46	80	39	39	51	462	1,726
History, biography	888	1,023	265	474	501	305	145	269	206	124	2,234	6,434
Fiction, fairy tales	1365	888	925	713	354	467	493	383	230	340	11,199	17,327
Total....	2,697	2,671	1,548	1,427	1,220	888	735	721	564	536	14,107	27,114

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1907, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the Library, May 31, 1908.

	Total vols. in Library May 30, 1907	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1907-1908	Total volumes in Library May 31, 1908	
						No.	Per cent.
Philosophy	1,450	.....	6	1,444	60	1,504	1.57
Theology	3,562	1	1	3,560	122	3,682	3.83
Social and political science	12,420	.....	4	12,416	333	12,749	13.27
Natural sciences and useful arts	10,651	1	11	10,639	392	11,031	11.49
Fine arts and poetry	5,337	2	3	5,332	195	5,527	5.75
Vocal and instrumental music	660	.....	2	658	30	688	.72
Fiction	14,670	17	713	13,940	1,210	15,150	15.77
Juvenile literature	11,839	5	478	11,356	915	12,271	12.78
Literary miscellany	7,073	.....	35	7,038	239	7,277	7.58
History and travel	16,347	1	17	16,329	480	16,809	17.50
Cyclopaedias and periodicals	9,134	.....	.....	9,134	224	9,358	9.74
Total.....	93,143	27	1,270	91,846	4,200	96,046	100.00

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.



PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE
TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE
Fifty-Second Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31st, 1909

PRINTED BY
The Duroc Printing & Publishing Co.
Catalogue Printers, 604 Main St.
PEORIA, ILLINOIS.



DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL 1880

John S. Lee.....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer.....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard.....	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold.....	1884 " 1896
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " 1908
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " 1904
Dan F. Raum.....	1886 " 1889
Thos. F. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " 1902
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead.....	1897 " 1900
James P. Nailon.....	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington.....	1898 " 1904
Max Newman.....	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1899 " 1902
John E. Keene.....	1900 " date
James M. Quinn.....	1900 " date
Alexander G. Tyng.....	1902 " date
Frank J. Quinn.....	1902 " 1908
John Birks.....	1904 " 1907
Alexander Glass.....	1904 " 1905
C. R. Vandervort.....	1905 " 1907
Peter Casey.....	1907
Robert W. Anderson.....	1907
Henry M. Pindell.....	1908
Zachariah P. Siebrecht.....	1908

Population of Peoria in 1900.....56,100
Special census report 1905.....65,026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1909-1910

Bernard Cremer, Peoria Demokrat.....	Term expires	1910
Peter Casey, Corning Distillery.....	"	" 1910
Robert W. Anderson, 120 S. Adams St.....	"	" 1910
Alexander G. Tyng, Chamber of Commerce.....	"	" 1911
Henry M. Pindell, Journal Office.....	"	" 1911
Zachariah P. Siebrecht, 1024 N. Jefferson St.....	"	" 1911
Thomas M. McIlvaine, 516 Main St.....	"	" 1912
John E. Keene, 301 S. Jefferson Ave.....	"	" 1912
James M. Quinn, Chamber of Commerce.....	"	" 1912

OFFICERS

Alexander G. Tyng	<i>President</i>
J. M. Quinn.....	<i>Vice-President</i>
B. Cremer	<i>Secretary</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance and Auditing—Casey, Quinn, Anderson.

Books—Keene, Cremer, Pindell.

Executive—Tyng, (ex-officio), McIlvaine, Siebrecht.

LIBRARY SERVICE

E. S. Willcox, *Librarian*.

Anna L. Archer, *Cataloguer and Assistant Librarian*.

Louise L. Booth, *Reference Librarian*.

Fannie Mayo Seabury, *Children's Librarian*.

Helen M. Ballard	Dallas R. Sweney,
Margaret M. McIlvaine,	Nella B. Beeson,
George Zimmerman (a)	Hazel A. Page,
Elizabeth Buchanan (b)	William Richter (a).
Lucy Huggins, (b)	

Evening Attendant—N. N. McLaughlin.

Branch Library; Evenings:

Louise Anderson, Augusta Anderson.

In the Bindery:

Richard J. Cross,	Margaret A. Theena,
Rachel Garabrant,	Daisy Wetzler.

Engineer—Chas. A. McMullen.

Janitress—Mrs. Mary Fogle.

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 a. m. until 8 p. m.; on Saturdays until 9 p. m.

Reading room open from 9 a. m. until 9 p. m.; on Sundays (July and August excepted), from 2 p. m. until 6 p. m.

(a) After School hours. (b) Occasional.

Report of the Directors.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Peoria.

Gentlemen:—We submit to you herewith the Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

It contains, in condensed form, the facts bearing upon this great educational factor in our city.

A Public Library is not to be judged by its imposing building or its fine material equipment, all of which we have, but by the service it renders to the reading public, and by the growing interest among its patrons in good literature and general information.

By reference to the statistics, herewith presented, may be seen the intellectual mine from which our people can gather, at will, the things that make for good citizenship.

The Directors have tried to study the needs of the people in the matter of books and periodicals, and in the general efficiency of the Library service.

The Librarian, and his splendid corps of assistants, have been faithful, courteous and obliging in their efforts to serve the public.

We take considerable pride in the large circulation of books as shown by the report of the Librarian, but we are trying, as best we can, to impress upon the public the great privilege many of them are missing in not using the Library more than they do.

We are looking forward, with interest and expectation, to the large results to be accomplished through our Children's Department when the new quarters, now in process of completion, are ready for occupancy; also to the increased circulation that we feel must come from our branch libraries, which are being better equipped to meet the growing demands of the outlying districts.

We acknowledge, with gratitude, the co-operation of the Mayor and the City Council in this important work, and bespeak for the Public Library cause your future kindly and generous consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN E. KEENE,
President.

Report of the Librarian

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

Gentlemen:—Herewith I beg to submit the Librarian's report for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1909—the 29th annual report of the free Public Library and the 52nd annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library—a subscription library—in the autumn of 1855.

Detailed statistics will be found tabulated at the end.

The one unfortunate experience of the year was the breaking out of a fire in the basement at 4 a. m. of Sunday, Sept. 27, 1908. The fire is supposed to have been caused by the crossing of electric wires in the cellar underneath the room on the east side of the building, occupied by the Peoria School Board. When discovered by the volume of smoke issuing from the building there was no blaze but as soon as the city firemen could find their way through the dense smoke in our bindery on the ground floor the smouldering fire was extinguished with small loss compared with what it threatened to be.

Our stack room, storing nearly a hundred thousand volumes, was entirely unharmed, being practically fireproof and shut off by iron doors from the front of the building. The principal loss outside of bindery material and books and periodicals in the bindery, through which the firemen had to grope their way in the blinding smoke, was caused to the walls and ceiling of the main delivery room above by the intensely hot smoke that filled the whole front of the building.

The entire property was amply insured and the loss, amicably and promptly settled by the insurance companies, was;

On walls, woodwork and ceiling.....	\$3,556.07
On books, periodicals and materials.....	933.20

A total of.....\$4,489.27

The loss of time and labor spent on work in process and destroyed in the bindery, the loss of current magazines there and the disturbance of our regular routine of work while undergoing repairs will make itself felt in summing up the year's work done.

MEMBERSHIP.

Our membership May 31, 1908 was.....	8,490
On May 31, 1909	8,879

A gain of 389

All memberships expire at the end of two years.

CONTENTS OF THE LIBRARY.

One year ago our library contained 96,046 volumes in active circulation, not counting duplicates and pamphlets.

	96,046
Deducting lost and paid for.....	34
Worn out and withdrawn.....	1,172
Known lost in the fire.....	158
Given away.....	150
	<u>1,514</u>
Leaves	94,532

Additions during the year:

By purchase	4,378
Donations	329
Periodicals bound.....	343
Making total of books in actual use	<u>5,050</u>
not counting duplicates and pamphlets....	99,582

CIRCULATION.

Our home circulation for the year shows a slight falling off; this year 196,300 as against 199,735 the year before—a loss of 3,435.

Each year of late and more especially last year, owing to political discussions, the daily paper and the attractive magazine enter more and more vigorously into competition with the book in our homes.

The disturbance caused by our fire and the renovating of ceiling and walls following had their effect, no doubt. So also did our unusual dilatoriness in meeting urgent demands for new books.

The dry goods merchant who expects large sales must foresee the probable demand and have his goods on hand ready. The same rule applies to libraries if they expect a large circulation.

PERIODICALS.

Of periodicals we take 300 and 33 besides as duplicates for issuing, all kept in neat portfolios in their case and accessible to the public in our reading room.

Outside of our own city papers, of which we keep regular files to be bound in durable volumes at the end of the year, we take very few newspapers. They are seldom called for, perhaps once a year some visitor asks if we do not take a New Orleans paper or some other. What we do take supplies the news of the day and enough.

BRANCHES.

Thirteen years ago we began putting in small branch libraries at the opening of each school year, in schools farthest away from the central library, three such branches the first year but gradually, as called for, increasing the number up to ten for the last few years and also increasing the number of books so deposited in each branch.

The number of volumes issued this last year from the ten schools, was 10,326 and from the branch library at the Neighborhood House, 2000 S. Washington St., under the care, evenings only, of the Misses Louise and Augusta Anderson, the issue was 15,338—a total issue from all the branches of 25,664.

CHILDREN'S ROOM.

Our Children's Library, set off by a temporary partition from the main reading room and containing more than 6,000 volumes, under the efficient care of Miss Seabury, issued last year 43,412 volumes, or a little more than 34 per cent of the number issued at the main delivery to older people.

To give this department larger and more attractive quarters on the ground floor as was originally intended in planning the building is a question already under discussion and will probably be consummated the coming year.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS.

Brewer. Character sketches. 4 v.
 International library of technology. 9 v.
 Champlain. Oeuvres, second édition, 6 tomes.
 Minnesota in three centuries. 4 v.
 Huebinger's Atlas of Peoria. 1908.
 Colonial records of North Carolina. 10 v.
 State records of North Carolina. 16 v.
 United States Census. Heads of families. 12 v.
 Helmholt's history of the world. 8 v.
 Nave's topical Bible.
 Maupassant. Complete works. 17 v.
 Brewster genealogy. 2 v.
 Bret Harte. Writings. Library ed. 19 v.
 Famous homes of Great Britain, ed. by Malan.
 More famous homes of Great Britain, ed. by Malan.

THE BINDERY.

In our bindery on the ground floor at the rear we employ the entire year one foreman and four young ladies with a complete equipment of necessary tools and presses. Such a bindery

under our exclusive control is not only a great convenience in getting work done quickly when wanted but it turns out a better job of work based on expert knowledge of the needs for library binding. So many cheaply bound volumes of popular books are thrown on the market as to lead to loud protest from librarians, and several publishers are now supplying a part of their editions in better binding. It was high time.

We bound last year:

Newspapers, canvas bound	26
Portfolios for current periodicals.....	50
Rebound, mostly fiction	2,512
Repaired	4,993
Bound volumes, mostly periodicals.....	538

A total of8,119

INVENTORY.

Our biennial inventory—this is what hurts, what we shrink from for the naughtiness it reveals—shows a loss of books missing for the two years of:

Non-fiction	75
Fiction	127
German fiction	5
	207

From the children's room and branches:

Fiction	83
Non-fiction	27
	110

Total in two years 317

Of the 296 books missing at our 1907 inventory 28 have been returned or found since and we shall, no doubt, have a similar experience with the present inventory; and, further, some of our losses may, undetected, have been in consequence of the fire in September.

REFERENCE WORK.

A public library is an educational institution; it is also a business with its long lines of steady customers finding their way daily to its open doors.

They do not come "creeping like snail unwillingly to

school," they come with urgent demands for something they hunger for, for wholesome and instructive reading matter, good books and periodicals, the best and also the latest. It is our duty to meet their reasonable demands to the best of our ability.

But it is a no less important function of a great library to give out from its rich stores of gathered wisdom answers to thousands of questions on innumerable subjects of inquiry.

This is the work of our reference department and is done so quietly as a part of regular routine and yet so satisfactorily that few know of it but those directly interested, yet in this silent, thorough work lies the perennial value of a great library.

In long rows on our shelves, solemn, silent, imperturbable, apparently useless and heartbroken from neglect, stand the immortal works in which are told the story of our race for more than 3,000 years—its strivings upwards, its defeats and victories, its myths and legends, its history, science, philosophy, religions, arts and literature.

But they are not useless and neglected, you were never more mistaken.

Ask our alert reference librarian, ask any of our always amiable assistants. These are our very best books, our indispensable standbys, our last refuge from defeat, the justification of our right to be.

Of the excellent work done by our reference department, of the help given every day in the year to students, to reading circles, to investigators, to casual inquirers and to the strangers from outside our gates, I cannot speak too highly.

It would astonish our friends if I could give here, what lack of space forbids, a list of the hundreds of questions recorded in our books and answered this last year, but I may be permitted to mention some of the neighboring towns which have applied to us for help in that time.

Metamora, Wyoming, Pekin, Lincoln, Galesburg, Washington, Chillicothe, Pottstown, East Peoria, Dunlap, Princeville, San Jose, Delavan, Eureka, Roanoke, Minier, Cuba, Roodhouse, Sycamore, Table Grove, Havana, Macomb, Toulon, Green Valley, Monmouth.

"Hither as ^{to} their fountain, other stars
"Repairing, in golden urns draw light."

CATALOGUING.

There is no harder more exacting work required of any one in a great library than is required of the cataloguer. Here a fair acquaintance with the whole realm of books is necessary that no mistake be made in assigning each new arrival to its one proper place among its neighbors on our shelves.

To collate and classify and enter author, title, publisher, price and place of purchase of 5,000 volumes, to put in pockets, stamp the books in three places, to make carefully from 3 to 10 cards each for our catalogue drawers for the public and to do all this quickly, neatly and acceptably has been a part and a part only, of the year's work done by our cataloguer with the aid of one capable assistant.

Their work is not done in the open, seen and read of all men, they do not perhaps receive as many thanks and approving smiles as the amiable young ladies who wait on the public at the desk, but they sit at the throttle, the train cannot move until they open it.

To our daily press, Star, Journal and Herald-Transcript, we owe our thanks for the numerous friendly notices and for publishing frequent lists of new books.

With thanks all around to each of my assistants in all departments and to you, gentlemen of the Board of Directors, I am,

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

Statistics for the year 1908-1909

RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation	\$17,988.04	
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1908.....	60.94	
Rent	800.00	
Fines	974.27	
Books damaged and paid for	3.05	
Books lost and paid for	25.05	
Extra books loaned	41.55	
Duplicate cards issued	17.25	
Reserve postal cards	37.25	
Memberships	22.00	
Catalogues sold	15.05	
Waste paper sold	17.53	
Insurance dividend	2.58	\$20,004.56

EXPENDITURES.

Books	\$ 4,285.07	
Periodicals	888.34	
Stationery	364.02	
Salaries	7,663.78	
Janitor service	1,330.00	
Binding labor	1,937.75	
Binding materials	217.07	
Fuel	474.17	
Expense	1,202.49	
Insurance	630.00	
Furniture and fixtures	186.30	
Reserve fund	800.00	
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1909.....	25.57	\$20,004.56

INSURANCE.

Cash.	Dr.	
To insurance, fire loss Sept. 27, 1908.....		\$ 4,489.27

Cr.

By Fred Meints, repairs as per contract.....	\$ 3,591.58	
By 5 women 51 days cleaning woodwork at \$1.50....	76.50	3,668.08
Balance on hand		\$ 821.19

MEMBERSHIP.

Memberships in force June 1, 1908.....	8,490
Memberships issued during the year, good for two years.....	4,418
Total	12,908
Memberships expired during the year	4,029
Memberships in force May 31, 1909.....	8,879

CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

June 1, 1908—	
Books in circulation	96,046 vols.
Duplicates not in circulation	2,291 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated).....	11,032 “

Losses—

Lost and paid for	34 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn	1,172	"
Lost by fire	158	"
Duplicates donated other libraries	150	"
Total losses.....	1,514	vols.

94,532 "

Additions—

By purchase	4,378 vols.
By donation	329 "
By periodicals bound	343 "
Total additions	5,050 "

Total books in circulation		99,582 vols.
Duplicates not in use	2,304	"
Pamphlets (estimated)	12,558	" 14,862 "
Total contents May 31, 1909		114,444 "

NUMBER OF PERIODICALS TAKEN AND ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE IN THE
READING ROOM.

Dailies	9
Weeklies	63
Bi-weeklies	4
Monthlies	169
Bi-monthlies	15
Quarterlies	40

300

Duplicates in circulation	33
---------------------------------	----

Total 333

VOLUMES AND PERCENTAGE OF ISSUES FROM EACH CLASS.

	1908-1909	Per cent 1908-1909
Philosophy	1,643	.84
Theology	1,515	.77
Social science	1,816	.93
Natural science, useful arts.....	7,831	3.99
Fine arts, poetry and music.....	3,780	1.93
Fiction	104,843	53.41
Juvenile fiction	48,058	24.48
Literary miscellany.....	5,341	2.72
History and travel.....	13,534	6.89
Cyclopedias and periodicals.....	7,939	4.04
Total	196,300	100.00

Of the above were issued from the main desk.....127,224

Of the above were issued from children's room..... 43,412

Of the above were issued at schools and branch library..... 25,664

196,300

SCHOOL AND BRANCH LIBRARY ISSUES.

	Harrison	Whittier	Summer	Garfield	Lee	Douglas	Blaine	Columbia	Glen Oak	Franklin	Branch	Total
Science, art, religion.....	228	47	164	153	194	146	42	3	57	18	462	1,514
Fiction, fairy tales.....	1,079	930	629	350	568	326	452	218	305	321	12,259	17,437
Literature.....	150	105	---	170	54	101	9	---	24	4	238	855
History, biography.....	750	380	545	462	138	366	138	378	184	138	2,379	5,858
Total.....	2,207	1,462	1,338	1,135	954	939	641	599	570	481	15,338	25,664

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1908, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the Library, May 31, 1909.

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1908	Lost and paid for	Worn out and Withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1908-1909	Total volumes in Library May 31, 1909	
						No.	Per cent.
Philosophy.....	1,504	2	2	1,500	87	1,587	1.59
Theology.....	3,682	---	10	3,672	154	3,826	3.84
Social and political science.....	12,749	---	15	12,734	414	13,148	13.20
Natural sciences and useful arts.....	11,031	2	29	11,000	424	11,424	11.47
Fine arts and poetry.....	5,527	1	14	5,512	212	5,724	5.75
Vocal and instrumental music.....	688	---	---	688	31	719	.72
Fiction.....	15,150	16	491	14,643	1,359	16,002	16.07
Juvenile literature.....	12,271	12	816	11,443	1,422	12,865	12.92
Literary miscellany.....	7,277	84	84	7,243	246	7,489	7.52
History and travel.....	16,809	1	20	16,788	483	17,271	17.35
Cyclopaedias and periodicals.....	9,358	---	49	9,809	218	9,527	9.57
Total.....	96,046	34	1,480	94,532	5,050	99,582	100.00

Books kept overtime during the year.....	16,250
Number of fine notices sent.....	2,519
Number of notices for books reserved	2,490

CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English	4,946
German	57
French	9
Spanish	6
Latin	1
Vocal and instrumental music	31
Total	5,050
Purchased	4,378
Donations	329
Periodicals bound	343
Total	5,050

BINDERY.

Books bound	538
Newspapers bound	26
Books rebound	2,512
Books repaired	4,993
Portfolios made	50
Total	8,119
32° 24° 16° 12° 8° 4° f°	
1 31 332 1939 536 126 109	3,076
Portfolios and books repaired, misc. sizes.....	5,043
	8,119
Current magazines covered	584
Members' cards folded and pasted.....	9,940

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
 County of Peoria } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of June, A. D., 1909,
 by E. S. Willcox.

EMMA DONNELLY, Notary Public.



PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE
THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Fifty-Third Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31st, 1910

PRINTED BY
THE DUROC PRESS
PRINTERS
424 FULTON ST. PEORIA, ILL.

DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL 1880

John S. Lee.....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer.....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.. ...	1880 " 1886
James Millard.....	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold.....	1884 " 1896
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " 1908
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " 1904
Dan F. Raum.....	1886 " 1889
Thos. F. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " 1902
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead.....	1897 " 1900
James P. Nallon.....	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington.....	1898 " 1904
Max Newman.....	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1899 " 1902
John E. Keene.....	1900 " date
James M. Quinn.....	1900 " date
Alexander G. Tyng.....	1902 " date
Frank J. Quinn.....	1902 " 1908
John Birks.....	1904 " 1907
Alexander Glass.....	1904 " 1905
C. R. Vandervort.....	1905 " 1907
Peter Casey.....	1907 " 1910
Robert W. Anderson.....	1907 " 1910
Henry M. Pindell.....	1908
Zachariah P. Siebrecht.....	1908
Wm. G. Olwin.....	1910
Eugene F. Baldwin.....	1910

Population of Peoria in 1900.....	56,100
U. S. Census 1910.....	66,950

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1910-1911

Alexander G. Tyng, Chamber of Commerce.....	Term expires	1911
Henry M. Pindell, Journal Office.....	"	1911
Zachariah P. Siebrecht, 1024 N, Jefferson St.....	"	1911
Thomas M. McIlvaine, 516 Main St.....	"	1912
John E. Keene, 301 S. Jefferson Ave.....	"	1912
James M. Quinn, Chamber of Commerce.....	"	1912
Bernard Cremer, Peoria Demokrat.....	"	1913
Wm. G. Olwin, 113-119 Eaton St.....	"	1913
E. F. Baldwin, Star Office.....	"	1913

OFFICERS

Alexander G. Tyng.....	<i>President</i>
J. M. Quinn.....	<i>Vice-President</i>
B. Cremer.....	<i>Secretary</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance and Auditing—Pindell, Olwin, Quinn.

Books—Keene, Cremer, Baldwin.

Executive—McIlvaine, Siebrecht, Tyng, (ex-officio).

LIBRARY SERVICE

E. S. Willcox, *Librarian*.

Anna L. Archer, *Cataloguer and Assistant Librarian*.

Louise L. Booth, *Reference Librarian*.

Fannie Mayo Seabury, *Children's Librarian*.

Helen M. Ballard	Dallas R. Sweney
Margaret M. McIlvaine	Nella B. Beeson
Hazel A. Page (a)	Lucy E. Huggins (b)
Elizabeth Buchanan (c)	Visa B. Wheeler (d)
William Righter (c)	

Evening Attendant—N. N. McLaughlin.

Lincoln Branch: Jane Anderson.

Washington Branch: Ruth H. Taylor.

In the Bindery.

Richard J. Cross,	Margaret A. Theena,
Rachel Garbrant,	Daisy Wetzler.

Engineer—Chas. A. McMullen.

Janitress—Mrs. Mary Fogle, Mrs. Mary O'Brien.

The Library is open for delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 a. m. until 8 p. m.; on Saturdays until 9 p. m.

Reading room open from 9 a. m. until 9 p. m.; on Sundays (July and August excepted), from 2 p. m. until 6 p. m.

Children's room open from 12 to 1; from 3 to 6.

- (a) To January 1. (b) From January 1. (c) Occasional.
(d) From February 1.

Report of the Directors.

Peoria, Ill., July 7th, 1910.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Peoria.

Gentlemen:—We submit to you the thirtieth annual report of the Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

It includes in a condensed form the account of the work of the last year, ending May 31st, 1910.

The past year has been a most important one in the work of this board. We have during that time established the children's library, in a separate room, and made it a more distinct department. The result has been most gratifying.

We have also established a branch library in the new Lincoln High School. The issue of books is large at this branch, and its work is growing.

We have received a gift from Andrew Carnegie of \$20,000.00 for a new branch library under conditions which have been accepted by your honorable body.

We have selected plans for this building and are now working towards its construction.

We would call your attention to the fact that the issue of books has increased from 89,644 year ending May 31st, 1892, to 207,070, year ending May 31st, 1910. In 1892 to 1893, the City Appropriation was \$15,000.00. The Appropriation since that time has not exceeded \$18,000.00 any year, and most years was much less. If you will compare the increase in this Appropriation with the increase in other branches of the city expense, you will see that the library is expected to handle a large increase in business with small increase in appropriation.

A comparison will show that the expense of handling the Peoria Public Library as figured on book issue, shows that our expense per book is far less than other public libraries in large cities.

We trust that you will look over the details of this report, and in your next appropriation make such allowance as will enable us to conduct its affairs so they will be a credit to the city.

The accounts of the Library have been audited from time to time, and their correctness certified to. The last audit up to date of May 31st, 1910, by John Alexander Cooper & Co., of Chicago, Ill.

We have at all times endeavored to handle the affairs of the library in such a manner, as to bring the best results to the citizens of Peoria.

We have been greatly aided in our work by the Librarian and his splendid corps of assistants, who have been faithful, courteous and obliging in their efforts to serve the public, and do everything possible for the interests of all.

Very truly yours,

A. G. TYNG,

President.

Report of the Librarian.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

Gentlemen:—Herewith I submit the Librarian's report of the activities of the Peoria Public Library for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1910—the 30th annual report of the free public library and the 53d annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in the autumn of 1853.

Detailed statistics will be found at the end.

Membership.

Our membership, good for two years only and, therefore what may be considered all active members was, one year ago, 8,490, it is now 9,418, a gain of 928. This is much the largest membership in our history and means about one to every seven of our population, or in general, about one to every family in the city.

Circulation.

Our home circulation for the year, not counting reference and study work in the library, now grown to be of large proportions, was 207,070 volumes, a gain over that of last year of 5,470. Of this 207,070 volumes there were issued from the main delivery room

room	123,871
from the children's room	41,504
from branch libraries	41,695

a total of	207,070
------------------	---------

Contents of the Library.

One year ago our library contained 99,582 volumes in active circulation.

Deducting lost and paid for in the year	35	99,582
“ worn out and withdrawn	2217	2,252
		<hr/>
		97,330

additions during the year—

By purchase	4868	
By gifts	740	
By periodicals bound	392	6,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

duplicates not in use.....	2309	103,330
Pamphlets estimated	14712	17,021
		<hr/>
Total contents		120,351

Periodicals.

Of dailies, weeklies, monthlies and quarterlies we take 371, 33 of these being duplicates for issuing and 39 at the branch libraries. It is to these up-to-date illuminating periodicals we go if we wish to keep pace with the swift march of events, the latest conclusions of great thinkers, the world's progress, the new ideas which mark this beginning of our XXth century.

Branches.

Lincoln Branch.

On the 9th of October, 1909, a new branch library—the Lincoln Branch—was opened in the lately erected Manual Training High School building on Lincoln Avenue, in the lower end of town, some two miles from the Main library. The use of this large and attractive room on the ground floor, north-east corner of the building and facing on Howett and Shelley streets was given us free by the School board, until they should need it. The room was well furnished by the library with shelving, tables, chairs and a periodical rack and started with some 2500 volumes of the latest popular books and a goodly number of works of reference. By gradual additions the library has now some 4000 volumes. Twenty-six periodicals are taken there regularly, together with the daily papers of the city, gifts from the publishers.

Under the able management of Miss Jane Anderson this branch library has grown rapidly in the appreciation of our families in that vicinity, showing the very gratifying home issue of 24,960 volumes in the less than eight months since it was opened.

Having the promise of \$20,000 from Mr. Carnegie for a separate building of our own and the city authorities having offered us a free site in Lincoln Park only a block and a half away from its present location, architects are now, at this writing, drawing plans for the new Lincoln Branch which, it is expected will be ready for occupation early in the fall. This will be a noteworthy addition to that part of our city.

Washington Branch.

The Misses Louise and Augusta Anderson, who had for five years been in charge of this branch, open only of evenings at the Neighborhood House, 2000 South Washington St., finding it too onerous for them after teaching in the public schools all day, resigned in October and Miss Lyford who had charge of the Neighborhood House activities, took their place, succeeded by Miss Ruth H. Taylor, her assistant. The opening of the Lincoln branch not far away, in October, no doubt had its effect in diminishing the patronage of the Washington branch. The total issue for the year was 8961 volumes.

The issues from our libraries in the Schools show also a falling off owing to the opening of the new Lincoln Branch, amounting for the year to only 7774 volumes, four of the School libraries having been transferred to the Lincoln branch in their vicinity.

Children's Room.

On February 1st, 1910, our children's library was transferred from its quarters on the main floor of the library to the large room originally planned for it directly beneath on the ground floor, but which had been, until January 1st, under lease to the school board. Well equipped with shelves, tables and chairs, with beautiful pictures on its walls, it offers an attractive welcome to our young people. Separated in this manner, adults and children in different rooms, it affords a great relief from the crowded conditions hitherto prevailing in busy hours at the main delivery desk.

By giving Miss Seabury, our children's librarian, an assistant, Miss Huggins, she is also able to look after our branch libraries, their wants and their records, more closely. The total issue from the children's room for the year was 41,504 volumes.

Important Additions.

Rowland. Encyclopedia of Mississippi history. 2 vols.
Wright. New century book of facts.
Winslow's encyclopedia. 8 vols.
Young people's book shelf. 10 v. 3 sets.
Napoleon 1, by Sloane. 4 vols.
Alex. Hamilton's works. (Constitutional ed.) 12 vols.
Cyclopedia of architecture and building. 10 vols.



CHILDREN'S ROOM.

Webster's new international dictionary. 1909.
Nelson's perpetual loose-leaf encyclopedia. 12 vols.
Hawthorne. Lock and key library. 10 vols. 2 sets.
Cram's standard American railway system atlas.
New international year book 1909.
Century dictionary and encyclopedia. vols. 11-12.
Appleton's new practical encyclopedia. 6 vols.
International correspondence school reference library: window trimming. 4 vols.
Kiepert's wall map of Greece.
Sturgis premier suspension globe.

Gifts.

A public library is the recipient of many welcome gifts from appreciative friends.

Of books, we received during the year from Mr. A. D. Thompson of Peoria, 148 volumes and 56 pamphlets of engineering works.

From the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Rossiter Johnson's history of the World Columbian Exhibition, 4 volumes.

From Mr. Walter B. Stevens, St. Louis, 100 years in a week. St. Louis the fourth city.

From Mr. Frank Wing, artist, of Minneapolis, "Yesterdays," 50 drawings by Frank Wing.

From Dr. W. A. Hinckle, of Peoria, Evolution of Religion, by W. A. Hinckle.

Of other gifts.

From Mrs. Marie Fromm, of Peoria; a large cabinet containing 149 star fish and 69 bottles of spawn collected in the waters of the Pacific Ocean off Alaska, by her son, Dr. Luther W. Fromm, formerly of Peoria.

Also a number of beautiful pictures to adorn the walls of the Children's room.

From Dr. Thomas M. McIlvaine, a noble engraving of Landseer's Monarch of the Glen.

From Mrs. Peter Casey, The Lost Child, by J. G. Brown.

And from the Mothers' Club a large photograph from scenes in Abbey's Holy Grail in the Boston Public Library.

The Bindery.

Our bindery continues to do good work, as shown by the following figures:

Newspapers, canvas bound	31
Bound volumes, mostly periodicals	565
Current portfolios for periodicals.....	118
Books rebound, mostly fiction	2771
Books repaired	4130

A total of7615

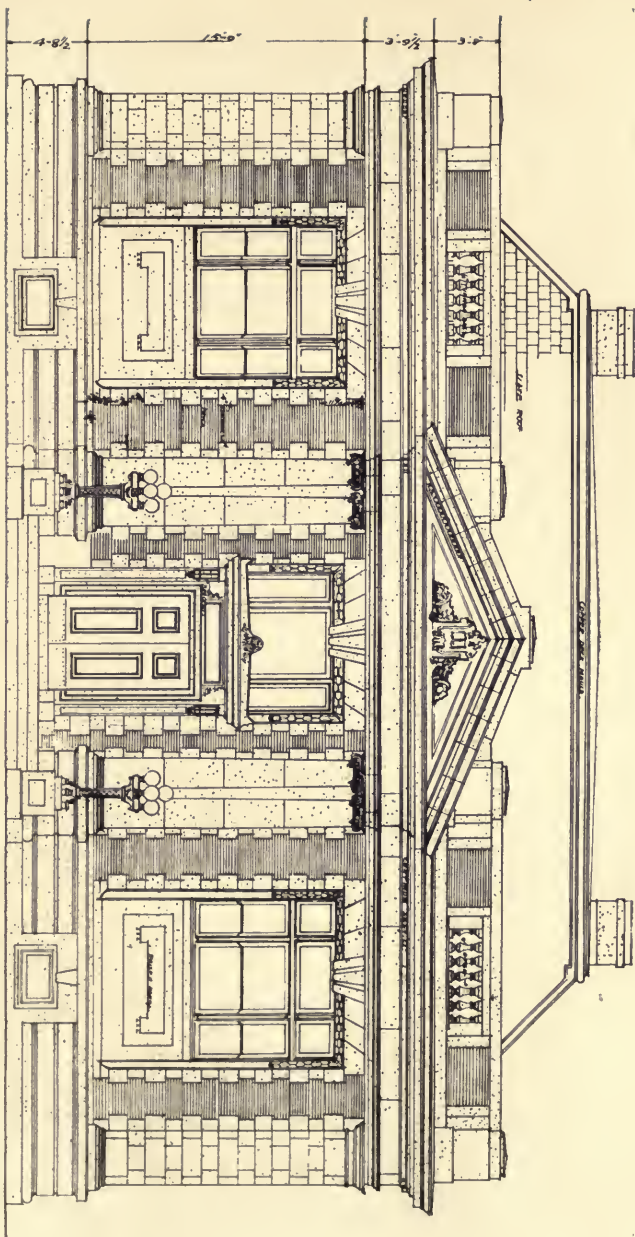
Cataloguing and Reference Work.

It is these departments that test the value of a great library. About three-fourths of the circulation in public libraries is fiction. The great public will see to it that this is supplied; they read advertisements and will have what they want or turn their backs on us and our circulation drops off. The latest new novels can be had anywhere, cheap. But a great library of 100,000 volumes, to be a credit to our city, to be worth while, must be much more than a collection of novels. They are good in their way, but do not count for much nor for long, with students, cultivated people, seekers after knowledge, nor does it demand much experience or intelligence on the part of the librarian or his advisers to supply them in unlimited quantities. But to build up a well balanced library supplied with the latest and best that has been said and written on all the varied interests of the day, on politics, religion, science, art, history travel, genealogies, to be able to give prompt and complete answers to all inquirers, searchers after truth, study clubs, investigators, with the latest and best that is known on those subjects, this is to have a library to be proud of, this is labor, this is work.

While it is true that every one of our assistants at the desk becomes by practice more or less familiar with the treasures of knowledge stored away in our great collection of standard works. it is nevertheless, on our cataloguer, who has this year accessioned and catalogued 6000 different volumes and, in so doing, learned to know them and love them as intimate friends, and on our alert reference librarian who is kept constantly scurrying hither and thither after new game, that this labor and responsibility rests especially.

LINCOLN BRANCH

HOTCHKISS & HARRIS, ARCHITECTS.



That our eager public should know this and appreciate it is both my duty and my pleasure to emphasize here. And it is not only what our public want to-day. Our watcher at the top-mast must look far ahead to spy out what famished mariner on the sea of life may cry for help to-morrow.

Is It Worth While?

Compared with our public school system, our most expensive and yet indispensable educational institution, it is proper to ask: Is the free public library worth while? Does it pay back as an investment a fair return on what it costs? There are ~~800~~ ^{9,418} pupils in our public schools, our live membership in the public library of 9,418 means probably three times that number of readers in the homes—scholars, teachers, preachers, study clubs and just book lovers.

Not one-half of our school children get beyond the primary school. They, later in life, if awakened to the fact of their own lack of education, their ignorance of the world and its manifold realms of knowledge, so necessary to them for success in life, will fly to the public library and delve among its treasures as miners do in the mountains seeking veins of silver and gold. They will say, the public schools taught us how to read, but it was the public library that appeased the hunger of our souls, else how starved and lean we should have been.

In old Egypt a prophet's vote was counted equal to a hundred heads. There is always a prophet or two among us, but it is the hundred heads a democracy has to look out for and instruct.

The public library, then, is not only an assistant, an ally, it is more; it is a supplement to the public schools, an extension, a post-graduate course and it welcomes equally to its tables the college graduate and the boy who once played hockey at school.

Our Peoria High School with its twenty-two teachers and 580 pupils cost the city last year \$25,200 for salaries alone, and our public schools with 9,446 pupils, cost the city \$371,000.

Our public library with its 9,418 members, and at least twice that number of readers, cost the city \$18,000 a year. Is it worth while?

To our daily press, Herald-Transcript, Star, Journal, German Demokrat and Die Sonne we owe thanks for numerous friendly notices of our work and for publishing our frequent lists of new books.

With thanks all around to each of my assistants in all departments and to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors, I am,

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX,

Librarian.

LIST OF PERIODICALS TAKEN.

Gifts are designated by an asterisk.*

Daily Papers.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chicago Daily Tribune. | *Peoria German Demokrat. |
| Chicago Record-Herald. | *Peoria Herald-Transcript. |
| *Christian Science Monitor. | *Peoria Journal. |
| *Congressional Record. | *Peoria Sonne. |
| *Galesburg Labor News. | St. Louis Globe-Democrat. |
| *Galesburg Republican-Register. | *Washington News (Tazewell Co., |
| New York Times. | Ill.) |
| *Peoria Evening Star. | |

Weeklies.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Academy. | Journal of Education. |
| American Architect. | Knox Student. |
| *American Banker. | Leslie's Weekly. |
| American Field. | Life. |
| *Chicago Banker. | Literary Digest. |
| Christian Endeavor World. | Littell's Living Age. |
| *Christian Science Sentinel. | London Graphic. |
| Collier's. | London Times. (Weekly) |
| Commoner. | Musical Courier. |
| Electrical Review. | Musical Leader. |
| Electrical World. | Nation. |
| Engineering & Mining Journal. | Nature. |
| Engineering News. | Notes & Queries. |
| Fliegende Blätter. | Outlook. |
| Forest & Stream. | *Patent Office Gazette. |
| Harper's Weekly. | *Peoria Weekly Gazette. |
| Illinois Issue. | Power. |
| Illustrated London News. | Public, The. |
| Illustrierte Zeitung. | Publisher's Weekly. |
| Independent. | Punch. |

Saturday Evening Post.	Spectator.
Saturday Review. (London)	Sunday School Times.
*Saturday Review. (Peoria)	Survey.
Science.	Vogue.
Scientific American.	World's Chronicle.
Scientific American Supplement.	Youth's Companion.

Bi-Weeklies.

Daheim.	*Gleanings in Bee Culture.
Dial.	Zur Guten Stunde.
Gartenlaube.	

Monthlies.

Advocate of Peace.	*Cook's American Traveller's Gazette.
American Boy.	Correct English.
American City.	Cosmopolitan.
American Engineer & Railway Journal.	Country Life in America.
American Forestry.	Craftsman.
American Geographical Society. Bulletin.	*Crop Reporter.
American Homes & Gardens.	Cumulative Book Index.
American Magazine.	Current Literature.
American Monthly Magazine.	Delineator.
American Naturalist.	Designer.
American Photography.	Education.
American Poultry Journal.	Educational Review.
Antiquary.	Electrician & Mechanic.
Architectural Record.	Elementary School Teacher.
Art Journal.	Engineering Index.
Atlantic.	Engineering Magazine.
Biblical World.	English Illustrated Magazine.
Blackwood's.	Entomological News.
Bon Ton.	Ethical Addresses.
Book News.	Etude.
Book Review Digest.	Everybody's Magazine.
Bookman. (American.)	Federation Review.
Bookman. (English.)	Fortnightly Review.
Boy's Own Paper.	Forum.
Business World.	Geographical Journal.
Canadian Magazine.	Good Government.
Cassier's.	Good Health.
Catholic World.	Good Housekeeping.
Century.	Good Roads.
Chambers's Journal.	Green Bag.
Chatterbox.	*Gregg Writer.
Chautauquan.	Hampton's Magazine.
Child-Lore.	Harper's Bazar.
Child-Welfare Magazine.	Harper's Monthly.
Children's Magazine.	*Herald of the Cross.
*Christian Science Journal	*Herold der Christian Science.
Classical Journal.	Hints.
Concrete Engineering.	House Beautiful.
Contemporary Review.	Household Journal.
	Human Life.

- International Studio.
 Journal of American Society for
 Psychical Research.
 Journal of Society for Psychical
 Research.
 Journal of Franklin Institute.
 Journal of Geology.
 Journal of Political Economy.
 Keramic Studio.
 Kindergarten Magazine.
 Kindergarten Review.
 Knowledge.
 Ladies' Home Journal.
 Lectures Pour Tous.
 Library Journal.
 Library World.
 Lippincott.
 Little Folks.
 *Locomotive Fireman.
 McClure's.
 Magazine of History.
 Masters in Art.
 *Michigan Alumnus.
 Missionary Review.
 Modern Priscilla.
 Monthly Evening Sky Map.
 Municipal Engineering.
 Munsey.
 Musician.
 National Geographic Magazine.
 National Municipal League.
 New England Magazine.
 New York Public Library Bulletin.
 Nineteenth Century.
 North American Review.
 Open Court.
 Our Dumb Animals.
 Out West.
 Outing.
 Overland.
 Pacific Monthly.
 Palette & Bench.
 Philistine.
 Phrenological Journal.
 Physical Review.
 *Pitman's Journal.
 Popular Astronomy.
 Popular Mechanics.
 Popular Science Monthly.
 Psychological Review Bulletin.
 Public Libraries.
 Public Service.
 Reader's Guide to Periodical Lit-
 erature.
 Reliable Poultry Journal.
 Review of Religions.
 Review of Reviews.
 St. Nicholas.
 School Arts Book.
 School Journal.
 School News.
 School Review.
 Scribner's.
 Service.
 *Shoppell's Owner's & Builder's
 Magazine.
 *Spirit of Missions.
 Suburban Life.
 Success.
 Sunset.
 System.
 Teacher's Magazine.
 Technical World.
 Theatre.
 Thought.
 Travel.
 Ueber Land und Meer.
 *U. S. Department of Agriculture,
 Monthly List.
 *U. S. Public Documents Catalogue.
 Velhagen & Klasings.
 Westermanns.
 Westminster Review.
 Wilson's Photographic Magazine.
 Woman's Home Companion.
 Work.
 World To-day.
 World's Work.
 Writer.

Bi-Monthlies.

- American Journal of Sociology.
 American Library Association
 Bulletin.
 *Annals of Propagation of the
 Faith.
 Bird Lore.
 *Catholic Missions.
 Home Needlework Magazine.
 Journal of Abnormal Psychology.
 Journal of Home Economics.
 Manual Training Magazine.
 Philosophical Review.
 Psychological Review.
 Records of the Past.
 Religious Education.

Quarterlies.

- American Anthropologist.
American Antiquarian.
American Catholic Historical Researches.
American Historical Review.
American Journal of Archaeology.
American Journal of Psychology.
American Journal of Theology.
Annals of the American Academy of Political & Social Science.
Auk.
Classical Philology.
Dublin Review.
Edinburgh Review.
English Historical Magazine.
Folk Lore.
Harvard Theological Review.
Hibbert Journal.
Illinois State Historical Society.
International Journal of Ethics.
Iowa Journal of History & Politics.
Journal of American Folk-Lore.
Journal of American History.
Library Work.
Mind.
Mississippi Valley Historical Association.
Modern Language Association Publications.
Monist.
New England Historical & Genealogical Register.
New York Genealogical Record.
Old Northwest Genealogical Quarterly.
Pedagogical Seminary.
Poet Lore.
Political Science Quarterly.
Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research.
Quarterly Journal of Economics.
Quarterly Review.
*Single Tax Review.
South Carolina Historical & Genealogical Magazine.
Texas State Historical Association.
*Theological Quarterly.
*Theosophical Quarterly.
*U. S. Labor Bulletin.
Virginia Magazine of History & Biography.
William & Mary College Quarterly.
Yale Review.

Statistics for the year 1909-1910

Receipts

From city appropriation.....	\$17,664.44	
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1909.....	25.57	
Rent	600.00	
Fines	1,017.93	
Books damaged and paid for.....	6.05	
Books lost and paid for.....	26.11	
Extra books loaned.....	39.30	
Duplicate cards issued.....	16.55	
Reserve postal cards.....	45.00	
Memberships	26.50	
Catalogues sold.....	9.45	
Waste paper sold.....	19.45	\$19,496.35

Expenditures

Books	\$ 3,739.82	
Periodicals	717.11	
Stationery	359.77	
Salaries	8,252.61	
Janitor service.....	1,196.00	
Binding labor.....	2,264.12	
Binding materials.....	219.34	
Fuel	551.32	
Expense	876.89	
Insurance	468.00	
Furniture and fixtures.....	193.50	
Improvement	15.00	
Reserve fund.....	600.00	
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1910.....	42.87	\$19,496.35

Fire loss, Sept. 27, 1908—

To insurance paid.....	\$ 4,489.27	
By repairs.....		\$ 4,315.83
By reserve fund.....		173.44
	4,489.27	4,489.27

Commercial German Bank—

To reserve fund.....	8,942.89	
By bills paid.....		8,278.29
By balance, May 19, 1910.....		664.60
	8,942.89	8,942.89

Reserve Fund—

To School board rents since 1897.....	8,651.11	
To accumulated interest on same.....	1,471.28	
To balance from fire insurance.....	173.44	
By Wm. Zerwekh, City treasurer.....		4,858.04
By Commercial German Bank.....		4,084.85
By balance.....		1,352.94
	\$10,295.83	\$10,295.83

Membership

Memberships in force June 1, 1909.....	8,879
Memberships issued during the year good for two years.....	5,002
Total	13,881
Memberships expired during the year.....	4,463
Memberships in force May 31, 1910.....	9,418

Contents of Library**June 1, 1909—**

Books in circulation.....	99,582 vols.	
Duplicates not in circulation....		2,304 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated)		12,558 vols.

Losses—

Lost and paid for.....	35 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn.....	2,217 vols.	
Total losses.....	2,252 vols.	
		97,330 vols.

Additions—

By purchase.....	4,868 vols.
By donations.....	740 vols.
By periodicals bound.....	392 vols.

Total additions..... 6,000 vols.

Total books in circulation.....		103,330 vols.
Duplicates not in use.....	2,309 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated).....	14,712 vols.	17,021 vols.
Total contents May 31, 1910..		120,351 vols.

Number of Periodicals Taken and Always Accessible in the Reading Room.

Dailies	10
Weeklies	57
Bi-weeklies	6
Monthlies	172
Bi-monthlies	11
Quarterlies	43
	299
Duplicates in circulation.....	33
Duplicates sent to branch libraries.....	39
Total	371

Volumes and Percentage of Issues from each Class.

	1909-1910	Per cent 1909-1910
Philosophy.....	1,855	.90
Theology	2,082	1.01
Social science.....	2,179	1.05
Natural sciences, useful arts.....	8,804	4.25
Fine arts, poetry and music.....	4,229	2.04
Fiction	109,981	53.11
Juvenile fiction.....	47,748	23.06
Literary miscellany.....	6,743	3.26
History and travel.....	15,003	7.24
Cyclopedias and periodicals.....	8,446	4.08
Total	207,070	100.00
Of the above were issued at the main desk.....		123,871
Of the above were issued from children's room.....		41,504
Of the above were issued at branch libraries and schools.....		41,695

Issued from Children's Room.

		Per cent
Religion	204	.49-
Science	2,291	5.52
Literature	1,876	4.52
Travel	2,309	5.56
History	1,119	2.70
Biography	772	1.86
Fiction	32,498	78.30
Periodicals	292	.70
German books.....	143	.35
Total	41,504	100.00

Issued from Branch and School Libraries.

	Lincoln Branch	Washington Branch	Harrison	Whittier	Douglas	Franklin	Columbia	Sumner	Glen Oak	Lec	Total
Science, art, religion	2,259	202	477	88	155	13	1	12	11	16	3,234
Fiction, fairy tales	17,561	7,377	1,286	1,016	218	239	51	28	87	70	27,933
Literature	865	129	190	154	245	1	1	1	17	1	1,602
History, biography	4,275	1,253	1,085	1,359	463	212	115	115	35	14	8,926
Total	24,960	8,961	3,038	2,617	1,081	465	167	155	150	101	41,695

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1909, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the library, May 31, 1910.

	Total vols. in Library May 31 1909	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1909-1910	Total volumes in Library May 31, 1910	
						No.	Per cent.
Philosophy	1,587	1	3	1,583	105	1,688	1.63
Theology	3,826	.	4	3,822	127	3,949	3.82
Social and political science	13,148	.	.	13,148	528	13,676	13.23
Natural sciences and useful arts	11,424	3	15	11,406	589	11,995	11.61
Fine arts and poetry	5,724	1	11	5,712	173	5,884	5.69
Vocal and instrumental music	719	1	1	717	23	741	.72
Fiction	16,002	16	869	15,117	2,146	17,263	16.71
Juvenile literature	12,865	12	1,119	11,734	1,339	13,073	12.65
Literary miscellany	7,489	19	19	7,470	265	7,735	7.49
History and travel	17,271	.	12	17,259	439	17,698	17.13
Cyclopaedias and periodicals	9,527	1	164	9,362	266	9,628	9.32
Total	99,582	35	2,217	97,330	6,000	103,330	100.00

Number of fine notices sent.....4,388
 Number of notices for books reserved.....3,370

Character of Additions.

English	5,696
German	274
French	4
Polish	2
Gaelic	1
Vocal and instrumental music.....	23
Total	6,000
Purchased	4,868
Donations	740
Periodicals bound.....	392
	6,000

Bindery

Books bound.....	565
Newspapers bound.....	31
Books rebound.....	2,771
Books repaired.....	4,130
Portfolios made.....	118
Total	7,615
32° 24° 16° 12° 8° 4° 1°	
5 32 609 1,965 541 112 103	3,367
Portfolios and books repaired, misc. sizes.....	4,248
	7,615
Current magazines covered.....	533
Members' cards folded and pasted.....	11,955

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
 County of Peoria } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of June, A. D. 1910,
 by E. S. Willcox.

EMMA DONNELLY, Notary Public.



PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE
THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Fifty-Fourth Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31st, 1911

PRINTED BY
THE DUROC PRESS
424 FULTON STREET
PEORIA, ILL.

DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880

John S. Lee.....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer.....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold.....	1884 " 1896
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " 1908
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " 1904
Dan F. Raum.....	1886 " 1889
Thos. F. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " 1902
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead.....	1897 " 1900
James P. Nallon.....	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington.....	1898 " 1904
Max Newman.....	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1899 " 1902
John E. Keene.....	1900 " date
James M. Quinn.....	1900 " 1910
Alexander G. Tyng.....	1902 " 1911
Frank J. Quinn.....	1902 " 1908
John Birks.....	1904 " 1907
Alexander Glass.....	1904 " 1905
C. R. Vandervort.....	1905 " 1907
Peter Casey.....	1907 " 1910
Robert W. Anderson.....	1907 " 1910
Henry M. Pindell.....	1908
Zachariah P. Siebrecht.....	1908
Wm. G. Olwin.....	1910
Eugène F. Baldwin.....	1910
S. P. Prowse.....	1910
B. G. Carpenter.....	1911

Population of Peoria, U. S. Census 1910.....66,950

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1911-1912.

Thomas M. McIlvaine, 516 Main St.....	Term expires	1912
John E. Keene, 301 S. Jefferson Ave.....	"	1912
S. P. Prowse, Government Building.....	"	1912
Bernard Cremer, Peoria Demokrat.....	"	1913
Wm. G. Olwin, 113-119 Eaton St.....	"	1913
E. F. Baldwin, Star Office.....	"	1913
Henry M. Pindell, Journal Office.....	"	1914
Zachariah P. Siebrecht, Star Office.....	"	1914
B. G. Carpenter, 400 N. Glen Oak Ave.....	"	1914

OFFICERS.

Eugene F. Baldwin.....	<i>President</i>
Wm. G. Olwin.....	<i>Vice-President</i>
S. P. Prowse.....	<i>Secretary</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES.

<i>Finance and Auditing</i> —Olwin, Siebrecht, Prowse.
<i>Books</i> —Keene, Cremer, Carpenter.
<i>Executive</i> —McIlvaine, Pindell, Baldwin, (ex-officio).

LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. Willcox, *Librarian*.

Anna L. Archer, *Cataloguer and Assistant Librarian*.

Louise L. Booth, *Reference Librarian*.

Fannie Mayo Seabury, *Children's Librarian*.

Helen M. Ballard	Dallas R. Sweney
Margaret M. McIlvaine	Nella B. Beeson
Lucy E. Huggins	Visa B. Wheeler
William Righter (a)	Louise I. Fisher (a)

Evening Attendant—Alfred Corston.

Lincoln Branch: Jane Anderson.

Janitor: Cyrus E. Entwistle.

Washington Branch: Mrs. Dorcas E. Hiser.

In the Bindery.

Richard J. Cross,	Margaret A. Theena,
Rachel Garabrant,	Daisy Wetzler,

Elsie M. Neal.

Engineer—Chas. A. McMullen.

Janitress—Mrs. Mary Fogle, Mrs. Mary O'Brien.

The Library is open for delivery of books, except Sundays and holidays, from 9 a. m. until 8 p. m.; on Saturdays until 9 p. m.

Reading room open from 9 a. m. until 9 p. m.; on Sundays (July and August excepted), from 2 p. m. until 6 p. m.

Children's room open from 12 to 1; from 3 to 6.

(a) Substitute.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

Peoria, Ill., June 30, 1911.

The Mayor and City Council of Peoria,
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Sirs :—

In our report of last year, we asked your honorable body for a suitable appropriation to maintain the Public Library work in Peoria.

We wish to thank you for your generous answer to our request. The last year has been an important one in our work. During this time the new Lincoln Branch, the gift of Andrew Carnegie, has been erected, and dedicated, and is now in active operation. This Library has been built and furnished within the amount of our gift. It is filling a long felt want in the lower end of our city.

The general work of the library has maintained its usual high standard during the past year, the credit of which is largely due to our Librarian, E. S. Willcox, and his various assistants.

The full details of our operation are given in the Library report.

Yours truly,

A. G. TYNG, President.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

Gentlemen:—Herewith I submit the report of the activities of the Peoria Public Library for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1911—the 31st annual report of our free public library and the 54th annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in the autumn of 1855.

Detailed statistics will be found at the end.

Membership.

Our membership, renewed every two years, was one year ago 9,418, it is now 9,595.

Circulation.

Our home circulation for the year, not counting the constant use of works of reference and study in the library, which is a large item in our work, was 216,025 volumes as against 207,070 one year ago, a gain of 8,955.

Of these volumes there were issued

from the children's room.....	42,666
from the branches	48,451
from the main library.....	124,908

a total of216,025

The population of Peoria according to the census of 1910 is 66,950; accordingly our membership being 9,595, fourteen and one-third per cent of our population are active members of our library or about one to every family if we count seven to a family.

Our home issue of books being 216,025 makes an average of 22 volumes to each active member and 3 1-5 volumes to each one of our population.

Our circulation of books among grown folks ought to be greater and, no doubt, would be but for the deluge of daily papers and monthly magazines these latter days, not to speak of cheap shows, theaters and the claims of so-called society.

To find time and opportunity to sit down quietly with a good book we shall before long have to steer our Noah's ark to some lone and far away Mt. Ararat or be submerged.

Children's Room.

If the fathers and mothers of our city would see something to gladden their hearts let them occasionally drop into the Children's Room. It is a pleasant, attractive, well lighted and well furnished room on the ground floor to the right of the main entrance of the library. Here they will see a steady stream of quiet, well behaved boys and girls coming and going intent on finding a good book to read in the room or to take home with them. It is the search for wholesome entertainment, the pursuit of knowledge that brings them there.

It is like entering the precincts of some sacred temple to note the serene quiet of the room, the beautiful pictures on the walls, the rows of books on the shelves below them, the inviting seats and tables occupied by busy readers undisturbed by those entering and disturbing no one themselves, and always a cheerful welcome with helpful advice from the librarian overlooking and watching all from her elevated desk.

From this room were issued last year 42,666 volumes of well selected books to be taken to their homes by our young people to be read there in many cases, no doubt, by other members of their families.

42,666 books—a great library scattered like seed in a single year on a fertile soil over our city.

And the same may be said of our Lincoln and School Branches.

What then may we not say of the total issue last year of 216,025 volumes from all our libraries? Permit me to compare this with our issue of 20,000 volumes a year to a membership of 300 in the old subscription library days.

Branches.

Our Lincoln Branch in the lower end of town, in the Manual Training High School building, some two miles distant from the Central Library with Miss Jane Anderson in charge, shows a remarkable increase of issues for the year—an issue of 38,383 volumes for home use, adult and juvenile, as compared with 24,960 for the previous year, a gain of nearly 54 per cent.

This increase is partly explained by the fact that many of the patrons of our Washington branch and of three of our former school branches are now drawn to the larger, near by Lincoln



CHILDREN'S ROOM

branch, but it shows nevertheless a healthy growth of interest in good books and a wider appreciation of what we are doing in that part of the city.

The New Lincoln Branch Building.

As was mentioned in our last year's report a gift of \$20,000 was offered our public library by Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the erection of a separate building for the Lincoln Branch, subject to Mr. Carnegie's usual conditions, viz. that the city give the site and agree to expend annually 10 per cent of his gift, that is, in this case, \$2,000. for the maintenance of the library.

This gift was obtained through the solicitation of Mr. Henry M. Pindell of our board.

It was accepted; the city gave the site, one of the choicest in the whole city, in the center of the large open space planted with shade trees, known as Lincoln Park, on Lincoln Avenue in the lower end of our city.

On Friday evening, June 16th, the building was pronounced completed and thrown open to the public in the presence of a large audience of city officials and residents of that part of town.

The books, some 5,000 in number, together with the furniture, had already been transferred in a half day on the Monday preceding, June 12th.

As will be seen from the report of the building committee at the end of this report, the building was erected by the contractors, McDonald & Brady, well within the original estimate of \$20,000. It is 59 ft. by 69 ft., built of Bradford stone and Roman pressed brick with a 15 foot ceiling, an attic and a large basement for a store room, boiler room, etc.

The building is an ornament to the park, in fact to that part of our city.

Miss Jane Anderson continues as librarian.

The Bindery.

Our bindery with one foreman and four assistants on the ground floor at the rear is kept busy every working day of the year and cannot catch up even then.

Work Done.

Portfolios for current magazines.....	43
Newspapers bound	53
Books renewed in old covers.....	76
New books bound	603
Books rebound	2582
Books repaired	3988

Total7345

As will be observed the largest part of our work in the bindery consists of rebinding and repairing books, mostly fiction, of course.

Now a novel as it comes from the publisher, will survive about 20 issues in a public library—some more, some less, according to our experience, but about 20 on an average—and may have required some repairing of loose leaves or weak backs before it needs rebinding, while if it were your own private property used only in your family, it might last for years.

There are several firms, however, that make a business of buying popular fiction in sheets and giving them what is called a re-enforced binding at an additional cost of from 10 to 40 cents the volume. For these we should have to wait some two months after the publisher's alluring advertisements had set people to enquiring for them at our delivery desk and making unpleasant remarks about our library being behind the times. For the librarian like the merchant must have the goods when called for or do no business.

It may be called a selfish satisfaction but satisfaction it is to be always able to say, you will find any good book on our shelves as soon as it is on the bookseller's shelves. We are praised for it; it pleases us and our friends at the same time. When after some 20 issues, more or less, the book is rebound in our bindery—and we know of no better, more durable bindery work done anywhere than ours—the rebound book will last until the paper itself wears out.

Music.

That the great masters in music should have a seat among the immortals in our library is fit and proper.



LINCOLN BRANCH

Certainly Bach and Beethoven and Mozart and Schubert and Schumann and Mendelssohn and Wagner deserve a place in the heavenly choir along side of Milton, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Browning and Longfellow.

They speak, it is true, a different language but more appealing, more divine. It is the language of angels we hear when we listen enraptured to their glorious harmonies.

To our collection of 739 volumes of vocal and instrumental music we have added this year 56 more volumes, among them 17 volumes of organ music and 25 of violin music and it is gratifying to hear the words of thankful appreciation from our musical friends.

New Valuable Additions.

- Appleton's new practical cyclopaedia. 6 vols.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica. 11th edition. 28 vols.
- Book of knowledge. 24 vols. 2 sets.
- Organ music. 17 vols.
- Violin music. 25 vols.
- Everyman's library. 111 vols.
- Ainsworth's historical romances. 20 vols.
- Fitzgerald. Ireland and her people. 5 vols.
- Riley. Poems and prose sketches. Homestead ed. 14 vols.
- Kipling's works, Oriental ed. 10 vols.
- Life of Beethoven by Alexander Wheelock Thayer. 5 vols.
(German.)

Important Gifts.

- Col. A. L. Fahnestock—Diary in manuscript of the 86th regiment, Illinois infantry volunteers, a large folio 300 pages; also 17 government war maps, war of the rebellion.
- Mrs. Mary Foster Bryner. 15 books on Sunday School work.
- Franks Bros. 16 directories of different cities, various dates.
- John A. White. Boston directory 1910.
Chicago directory, 1910.
St. Louis directory 1911.
- Family of Chas. P. James. Century magazine v. 1-36.
Scribner's v. 1-22.
Vols. of Bulwer, Cooper, Dumas, Mark Twain, Marryat & Hardy.
- 125 miscellaneous vols.

Southern history of the war. 4 v.

Lyman's historical chart.

Large family Bible.

Typewritten manuscript copy of Mrs. E. M. Bacon's "Letters from India."

Outside Circulation.

The usefulness of a large, well selected library like ours near the center of the state is not confined to the limits of the city. We are not appealed to for help by wireless telegraphy as shipwrecked mariners do, but we are constantly applied to for help from neighboring cities.

Following is a partial list of towns near us who have sought our aid: El Paso, Ashland, Mackinaw, Morton, Eureka, Ottawa, Chillicothe, Princeville, Pekin, Havana, San Jose, New Boston, Wyoming, Kewanee, Elmwood, Mapleton, Lacon, Minier, Canton, Lincoln, Armington, Atlanta, Wichita Kansas, Denver, Flagstaff Arizona.

A Serviceable Library.

Granted that the public library is centrally located in an appropriate building, its interior well planned as to light, heat and ventilation, with ample storage room not only for its present needs but also for its future, inevitable growth—a matter too often ignored by the architect—the most important thing of all remains—the character and completeness of its contents.

It should have on its shelves well classified, well catalogued and easily accessible, according as its means allow, a representative collection of all that has been done and said by the world's great writers since books began to be written; at least a little, the best and latest of everything in the whole realm of literature past and present.

This means that history, art and science, industry, politics, music and religion in all their numerous ramifications must be well represented.

It should be strong in works of reference for the student or casual inquirer; dictionaries, encyclopaedias and genealogies together with the best current periodicals and, of course, should not forget the bait that draws the indifferent, idle and tired public to its doors—good novels.

Yet one thing more it needs to give life to these otherwise inert and voiceless generations, waiting in line behind our delivery desk, a body of quick, educated and amiable assistants to serve the public.

These are some of the requirements of a public library which every librarian strives to secure and which we believe we have. The last I am sure we have.

To our daily newspapers we owe thanks for numerous friendly notices and lists of new books.

With thanks to each of my assistants in all departments and to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors,

I am respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX,
Librarian.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1910-1911

Receipts.

From city appropriation.....	\$18,243.55	
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1910.....	42.87	
Cash in bank June 1, 1910.....	664.60	
Rent	80.00	
Fines	1,059.48	
Books damaged and paid for	2.85	
Books lost and paid for.....	30.25	
Extra books loaned.....	45.15	
Duplicate cards issued	15.85	
Reserve postal cards	35.00	
Memberships	17.00	
Catalogues sold	7.80	
Furniture sold .....	.50	
Waste paper sold	7.40	\$20,252.30

Expenditures.

Books	\$ 4,081.60	
Periodicals	850.40	
Stationery	380.57	
Salaries	8,693.43	
Janitor service	1,301.10	
Binding labor	2,337.50	
Binding materials	181.88	
Fuel	836.51	
Expense	875.28	
Insurance	88.30	
Furniture and fixtures.....	172.70	
Improvement	30.00	
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1911.....	19.66	
Cash in Bank May 31, 1911.....	403.37	\$20,252.30

Report of the Building Committee on the Cost of the
New Lincoln Branch Library.

To gift from Andrew Carnegie.....	'\$20,000.00	
By McDonald & Brady Contracting Co.....		\$15,887.40
" Cody & Shea, plumbing.....		395.00
" " heating		869.00
" McDonald & Brady Cont. Co., extra green tile roofing		350.44
" Central Electric Co.....		168.00
" J. L. Mott Iron Works.....		112.00
" Cody & Shea, sewer.....		336.00
" Sidewalk		76.00
" Grading		40.00
" Decorating.....		100.00
" Shipper & Block, chairs & tables.....		340.00
" " " shades		34.00
" " " repairing book cases.....		50.00

" Hotchkiss & Harris, architects.....	950.00
" Foundation, extra.....	50.00
" Hewett & Emerson, competing plans.....	50.00
" Robinson Fuel Co., coal.....	6.80
" Unexpended	185.36
	<hr/>
	\$20,000.00 \$20,000.00

HENRY M. PINDELL,
JOHN E. KEENE,
ALEXANDER G. TYNG,
Committee in charge.

Membership.

Memberships in force June 1, 1910.....	9,418
Memberships issued during the year good for two years.....	4,595
	<hr/>
Total	14,013
Memberships expired during the year	4,418
	<hr/>
Memberships in force May 31, 1911	9,595

Contents of Library.

June 1, 1910—

Books in circulation	103,330 vols.	
Duplicates not in circulation...		2,309 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated)		<u>14,712 vols.</u>

Losses—

Lost and paid for	36 vols.
Worn out and withdrawn.....	<u>1,268 vols.</u>
Total losses	<u>1,304 vols.</u>
	102,026 vols.

Additions—

By purchase	4,130 vols.
By donations	472 vols.
By periodicals bound	<u>348 vols.</u>
Total additions	<u>4,950 vols.</u>

Total books in circulation.....		106,976 vols.
Duplicates not in use.....	2,321 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated)	<u>16,676 vols.</u>	<u>18,997 vols.</u>
Total contents May 31, 1911		125,973 vols.

Number of Periodicals Taken and Always Accessible in the Reading Room.

Dailies	9
Weeklies	51
Bi-weeklies	9
Monthlies	165
Bi-monthlies	15
Quarterlies	43
	<hr/>
	292
Duplicates in circulation	32
Duplicates not in circulation	15
Duplicates sent to branch libraries	31
	<hr/>
Total	370

Volumes and Percentage of Issues From Each Class.

	1910-1911	Per cent 1910-1911
Philosophy	1,696	.79
Theology	2,550	1.18
Social science	2,189	1.01
Natural sciences, useful arts	9,242	4.28
Fine arts, poetry and music	3,860	1.79
Fiction	114,983	53.23
Juvenile fiction	48,962	22.66
Literary miscellany	7,114	3.29
History and travel	16,296	7.54
Cyclopedias and periodicals	9,133	4.23
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	216,025	100.00

Of the above were issued at the main desk.....124,908
 Of the above were issued from children's room..... 42,666
 Of the above were issued from branch libraries and schools..... 48,451

Issued from Children's Room.

	1910-1911	Per cent 1910-1911
Religion	321	.75
Science	2,769	6.49
Literature	2,344	5.49
Travel	2,614	6.13
History	1,356	3.18
Biography	1,065	2.50
Fiction	31,634	74.14
Periodicals	452	1.06
German books.....	111	.26
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	42,666	100.00

Issued from Branch and School Libraries.

	Lincoln Branch	Washington Branch	Harrison	Whittier	Loucke	Franklin	Columbia	Douglas	St. Bernard's & St. Mark's	Total
Science, art, religion	3,106	69	383	32	81	45	45	46	2	3,809
Fiction, fairy tales	27,238	2,381	1,528	733	521	526	486	77	28	33,518
Literature	1,597	48	180	67	41	13	44	44	2	1,982
History, biography	6,452	367	1,202	337	258	275	105	138	8	9,142
Total	38,383	2,865	3,293	1,169	901	859	636	305	40	48,451

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class, June 1, 1910, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the library May 31, 1911.

	Total vols. in Library May 31 1910	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1910-1911	Total volumes in Library May 31, 1911	
						No.	Per cent.
Philosophy	1,688	.	3	1,685	79	1,764	1.65
Theology	3,949	.	1	3,948	133	4,081	3.82
Social and political science	13,676	2	2	13,672	499	14,171	13.25
Natural sciences and useful arts	11,995	1	15	11,979	408	12,387	11.58
Fine arts and poetry	5,884	.	14	5,870	189	6,059	5.66
Vocal and instrumental music	741	.	2	739	56	795	.74
Fiction	17,263	23	601	16,639	1,387	18,026	16.85
Juvenile literature	13,073	8	606	12,459	1,473	13,932	13.02
Literary miscellany	7,735	1	15	7,719	170	7,889	7.38
History and travel	17,698	1	4	17,693	355	18,048	16.87
Cyclopaedias and periodicals	9,628	.	5	9,623	201	9,824	9.18
Total	103,330	36	1,268	102,026	4,950	106,976	100.00

Number of fine notices sent	6,074
Number of notices for books reserved.....	3,549

Character of Additions.

English	4,822
German	71
French	1
Vocal and instrumental music	56
Total	4,950
Purchased	4,130
Donations	472
Periodicals bound	348
Total	4,950

Bindery.

New books bound	603
Newspapers bound	53
Books rebound	2,582
Books renewed in old covers	76
Books repaired	3,988
Portfolios made	43
Total	7,345
32o 24o 16o 12o 8o 4o fo	
1 30 465 1,971 467 140 164	3,238
Portfolios, books repaired and renewed in old covers misc.	
sizes	4,107
Total	7,345
Current magazines covered	656
Members' cards folded and pasted.....	10,000

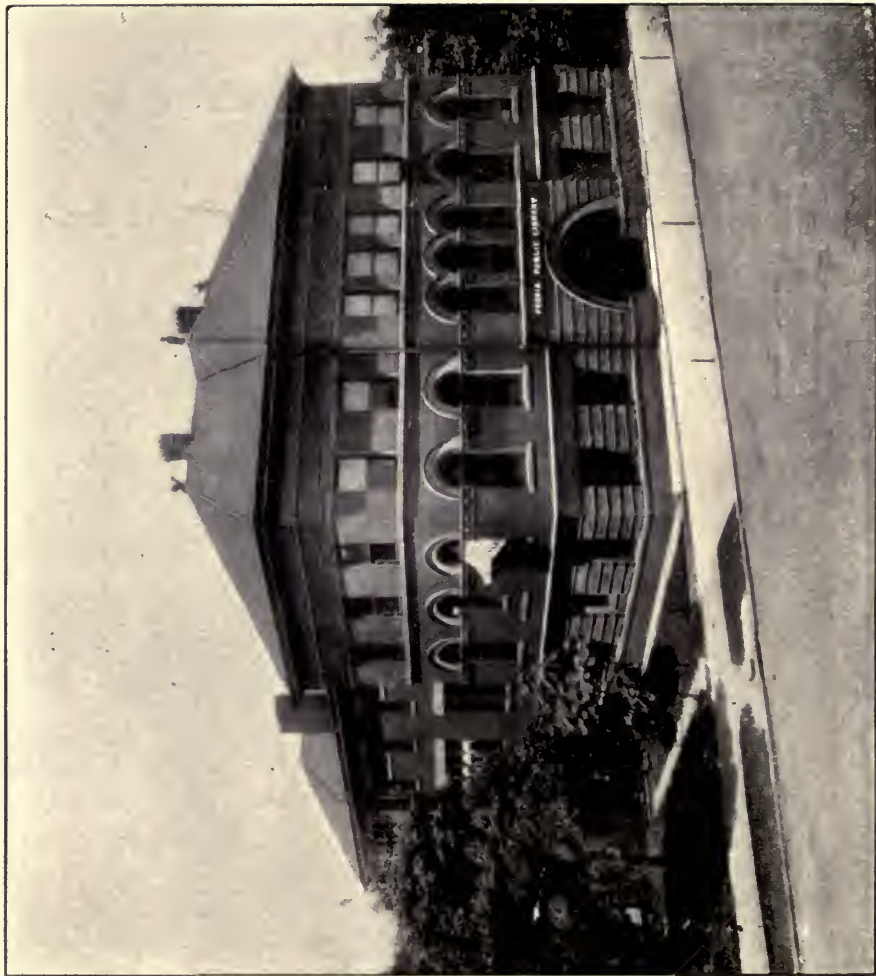
E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
County of Peoria. } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of June, A. D. 1911.

EMMA DONNELLY, Notary Public.





PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE
THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
AND THE

Fifty-Fifth Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31st, 1912

PRINTED BY
THE DUROC PRESS
424 FULTON STREET
PEORIA, ILL.

DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.

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James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
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James Millard.....	1884 " 1886
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Robert Grier.....	1884 " 1908
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Max Newman.....	1898 " 1899
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James M. Quinn.....	1900 " 1910
Alexander G. Tyng.....	1902 to 1911
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Wm. G. Olwin.....	1910
Eugene F. Baldwin.....	1910
S. P. Prowse.....	1910
B. G. Carpenter.....	1911
Wm. T. Irwin.....	1912

Population of Peoria, U. S. Census 1910.....66,950

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1912-1913.

Bernard Cremer, Peoria Demokrat.....	Term expires	1913
Wm. G. Olwin, 113-119 Eaton St.....	" "	1913
E. F. Baldwin, Star Office.....	" "	1913
Henry M. Pindell, Journal Office.....	" "	1914
Zachariah P. Siebrecht, Star Office.....	" "	1914
B. G. Carpenter, 400 N. Glen Oak Ave.....	" "	1914
Thomas M. McIlvaine, 516 Main St.....	" "	1915
Wm. T. Irwin, Jefferson Building.....	" "	1915
S. P. Prowse, Government Building.....	" "	1915

OFFICERS.

Eugene F. Baldwin.....	President
Wm. G. Olwin.....	Vice-President
S. P. Prowse.....	Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Olwin, Siebrecht, Prowse.

Books—Cremer, Carpenter, Irwin.

Executive—McIlvaine, Pindell, Baldwin, (ex-officio).

LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. Willcox, Librarian.

Anna L. Archer, Cataloguer and Assistant Librarian.

Louise L. Booth, Reference Department.

Fannie Mayo Seabury, Children's Room.

Helen M. Ballard	Dallas R. Sweney
Margaret M. McIlvaine	Nella B. Beeson
Lucy E. Huggins	Visa B. Wheeler
Paul L. Boehme (a)	Louise I. Fisher

Louise Boyd (a)

Evening Attendant—Alfred Corsten.

Lincoln Branch—Jane Anderson.

Janitor—Cyrus E. Entwistle.

Washington Branch—Helena Taylor.

In the Bindery

Richard J. Cross,	Margaret A. Theena,
Rachel Garabrant,	Daisy Wetzler,
Myrtle Eichhorn.	

Engineer—Chas. A. McMullen.

Janitress—Mrs. Mary Fogle, Mrs. Mary O'Brien.

The Library is open for delivery of books, except Sundays and holidays, from 9 a. m. until 8 p. m.; on Saturdays until 8:30 p. m.

Reading room open from 9 a. m. until 9 p. m.; on Sundays (July and August excepted), from 2 p. m. until 6 p. m.

Children's room open from 12 to 1; from 3 to 6.

(a) Occasional.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Peoria.

Gentlemen: We submit to you, herewith, the thirty-second annual report of the free public library, and the fifty-fifth annual report of the same library since it was first organized in 1855.

There is little to note of change since our last report. The most remarkable occurrence is that the circulation during this year has fallen off over two thousand volumes from that of last year. The notable fact is that the decrease came from the school libraries. Three of these have been closed, for various reasons, but, as the librarian's report shows, the issue from the main library chronicles an increase in the number of books issued.

Peoria is not alone in this matter. The same complaint is made from nearly all the cities of the Union, and it appears to come from the extraordinary attractions that are now offered our youth. Formerly, the library was looked upon as the sole means of instruction. Young people were taught that the foundation of education along solid lines began with the purchase of good books. But today, no one buys books, except of a cheap and trashy kind. The moving picture shows offer to our growing youth a sensational and momentary excitement that registers no result, and is productive of no lasting good. No wonder that as the places of amusement multiply, the library is neglected. The market is now flooded with books along the same lines. The authors seek to create a passion for thrills and for tawdry and evanescent effects, to call it by no harsher name.

The library has steadily protested against this tendency, and has aimed to lay before its patrons the works of authors which should stimulate in the reader a desire for improvement along the higher lines. The directors feel that they have been measurably successful. There is a steady demand for the better class of authors, and when the membership is one in seven of our entire population, we can congratulate ourselves that we have worthily expended the public money, and been faithful to our high trust.

E. F. BALDWIN, President.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

Gentlemen: Following is the report of the Peoria Public Library for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1912—the thirty-second annual report of the free public library and the fifty-fifth annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in 1855.

Detailed statistics will be found at the end.

Membership.

Our membership, renewed every two years and, consequently, an active membership, was one year ago 9,595 and is now 9,470, a slight loss in members, but still one in seven of our population.

Circulation.

Our total circulation also shows a falling off from that of last year which was 216,025, this year 213,351, a loss of 2,674.

Of this circulation there were issued

From the schools.....	5,538
From the Lincoln Branch.....	37,902
From the Children's Room.....	42,761
From the main library.....	127,150

A total of.....213,351

Of the loss in circulation of 2,674 volumes, the most of this came from the school libraries, three having been transferred or closed for various reasons, while the issue from the main library shows an increase of 2,242, the issue from the children's room shows an increase of 95, the Lincoln Branch a loss of 481.

When a city of our size has once got a large, central library fairly established and in good working order with a well balanced assortment of books in all departments of thought, served by experienced assistants, and has, in addition, a sufficient number of branches at convenient distances; and when, further, the city fathers have been as considerate of the library needs of their constituents as is our city council in supplying the means, then it is reasonable to expect that the circulation of books in the homes will remain, from year to year, much the same, increasing gradually with the growth of the city.

It will be seen, therefore, that, on the whole, the history of our library for the past year shows no remarkable events or achievements over the history of the immediately preceding years.

There is yet another thing to remember in our case; Peoria is not a summer resort with a large population of visitors like

Los Angeles, for example, seekers of health or rest or amusement with time and leisure on their hands. Ours is decidedly a business city. Its merchants, manufacturers, grain dealers, are busy men and, perhaps, science, art, history, literature and philosophy may not interest them today as much as do market quotations and politics which they find in the daily papers. In fact, with the enormous production now-a-days of newspapers and cheap, illustrated magazines, who of city dwellers finds time to read and enjoy a good old book as I did in my youth, on the farm—the great masters of English, the classics of a former generation?

It is our women and children—women interested in general culture, in the public good, in philanthropic and club work, and bright, wide-awake boys and girls whose faces are most frequently seen in a library.

Yet what more inviting, more delightful place of resort for old or young, for men, women and children, can a city offer than its public library, its spacious, well furnished delivery room and reading rooms, so quiet and restful, no loud conversation (hats off with the gentlemen) and well educated, well trained assistants to wait on them instantly.

What an array of old friends, what a flood of delightful memories does such a library offer as we enter its inviting doors.

It is then I feel like one who has left the tumult and pain of life behind him and walks the silent corridors of some great Valhalla, where the marble forms of all the noble dead, the heroes and benefactors of our race, look down on me with eyes full of compassion and of immortal youth. And then I repeat as applicable above all to a library, that inspired line of Byron,

“O, Rome, my country, city of the soul!”

Contents of the Library.

One year ago our library contained of books in circulation.	106,976	
Discarded, lost and paid for.	2,297	
		<hr/>
		104,679
Added during the year—		
By purchase.	4,966	
By donations.	807	
By periodicals bound.	327	6,100
		<hr/>
Showing present contents.		110,779
Duplicates not in use and pamphlets.		21,331
		<hr/>
		132,110

The Inventory.

Owing to limited help no inventory was taken during 1910 and 1911. The inventory taken this year, therefore, covers three years. It shows as missing from the main library,

Fiction	268
Non-fiction	83
and from the children's room—	
Fiction	132
Non-fiction	24
<hr/>	
A total for three years of.....	507
Or an average for each year of.....	169

Of these 507 missing volumes 400 were fiction, mostly late fiction, such as is exposed upon our delivery counter for examination by our patrons, and some of them no doubt, judging by the past, will yet reappear.

Of the 107 classed books about one-third were from the open shelf where we exhibit them when first received. Every book in our library has the name Peoria Public Library plainly stamped in four different, prominent places in the book, yet it is deplorable that in spite of this and the constant watchfulness of our assistants we have to report such wicked shoplifting in a public library. So much we yield to the open shelf idea and so much we pay for doing it.

During the year 6,100 volumes were accessioned, classified and catalogued which is always very exacting work and 2,267 worn out volumes—mostly fiction—were discarded. These we have tried to distribute where they would do the most good, giving instruction with them how to patch them up and paste in loose leaves. They were, in each case, thankfully welcomed by the ladies of the Proctor Endowment, by the children of the Home for the Friendless and by Mr. Joseph Brodman of the House of Correction.

Reference Work.

This has grown in the last few years to be one of the most distinctive functions of a public library, a demonstration of its usefulness and of its justification for liberal support.

To supply the latest, loudly advertised novel is easy enough, but to answer the inquiries of the high school boy preparing for a debate, and also the inquiries of his grandfather, of the preacher, the historical student, the politician, the ladies of the missionary and philanthropic societies, the literary clubs, and urgent inquiries from neighboring towns—that is something different. It is for our friends to say how well we do it.

Our list of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading room remains about the same from year to year—dailies, weeklies, monthlies and quarterlies—some 300.

The More Important Gifts.

From the estate of the late Col. James M. Rice, himself a student of history—

- Illinois Historical Society Collections, v. 3, 5, 6, 7.
- “ “ “ Transactions, 1908-9.
- United States Biographical Dictionary, Illinois, 1876.
- Historical Encyclopaedia of Illinois, v. 1.
- Biographical Encyclopaedia of Illinois, 1875.
- Illinois Society Sons of American Revolution, 1896.
- History and pedigree of the Montgomery family. 1863.
- Traveller's directory for Illinois. 1839.
- Gazetteer for Illinois. 1837.
- Danville, Montour Co., Pa., by D. H. B. Brower.
- Colonial churches. 1907.
- Constitution of the Presbyterian Church. 1909.
- What is Presbyterian law? 4th ed. 1882-4.
- Echoes from Edinburgh by Gairdner. 1910.
- History of the Presbyterian Church in Kentucky by Davidson.
- Records of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. 1814.
- History of Irish Presbyterians by Latimer.
- Presbyterians and the Revolution, by Breed.
- Authentic history of Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania, by Mombert. 1869.
- History of the Augusta Church. 1737-1900.
- “ “ “ “ colony and ancient Dominion of Virginia by Campbell.
- Annals of Augusta County by Waddell. 1886 and 1902.
- History of Chester County, Pennsylvania by Futhey.
- Virginia Magazine, 14 odd numbers.
- Political speeches, 1839-1864, miscellaneous pamphlets compiled by Colonel Charles Ballance.
- Lanman's dictionary of the United States congress. 1859.
- General instructor in law by John Bradford. 1820.

From J. B. Greenhut of New York City—A large bronze tablet, mounted on polished marble 38 by 42 inches, weighing 300 pounds, containing Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

This tablet was placed against the wall in the vestibule between the entrance to the library and to the Children's Room where it will be seen by every one entering the library.





LINCOLN BRANCH

Valuable Purchases.

Cosmo collection of pictures.
 One hundred popular pictures. 2 vols.
 Clemens. Writings. Author's national ed. 25 vols.
 Burke. Landed gentry of Great Britain. Ed. 11.
 See. Researches on the evolution of the stellar systems. Part 2.
 Photographic history of the civil war. 10 vols. 2 sets.
 The Opera. Ed. by Bates. 4 vols. with atlas.
 Century dictionary. 1911 edition. 12 vols.
 Americana. 22 vols.
 Etude de la Plante by Verneuil.
 Dekorative Vorbilder by Hoffman. Bd. 21-22.
 Les Cartons de la manufacture nationale de Sevres by Sandier.
 Great texts of the Bible, ed. by Hastings, in 20 vols. (8 vols.
 received.)

Our Bindery.

With one foreman and four assistants busy all the time we have been unable to catch up with our work and have had to send out 400 volumes of fiction to be rebound by a book binding firm in a neighboring city.

The following table shows the amount and nature of the work done by our own bindery during the year.

New books bound, mostly magazines.....	425
Newspapers bound	48
Books rebound, mostly fiction.....	3,506
Books repaired	1,932
Books repaired by desk assistant.....	2,006
	3,938
Portfolios made	74
Total	7,991
Current magazines covered.....	661
Member's cards folded.....	8,200

Improvements.

In the autumn we introduced the Tuec Air Cleaning System for dusting the books in our stacks and for cleaning the walls and have found it both efficient and economical in working.

Another valuable improvement was the putting in last October of the Chamberlin Metal Weather Strips in our 90 windows to tighten the sashes to the frames and thus keep out the wind and dust.

The value of these weather strips was demonstrated by the result that our whole building was kept warmer in winter at less expense for fuel as the following figures show.

For the winter of 1910-11 our coal bill was.....\$836.51
 For the longer and harder winter of 1911-12 it was..... 551.20

A saving of.....\$285.31

This applies to the main library only. If we added to this the cost of heating the Lincoln Branch last winter—the first time we have had to do it, viz. \$123.02—we find that the cost of fuel for both libraries for the winter of 1911-12 was \$674.22 or \$162.29 less than for the one building in 1910-11.

Lights.

Two lamp posts each with 5 large globes have been placed on the edge of the sidewalk in front of the library, giving an attractive appearance to the entrance, with a large globe over the door.

Board of Directors.

Our Board of Directors, may I be permitted to say, deserves unqualified praise and appreciation from the general public for their conscientious attention to the needs of the library, for their regular attendance at the Board meetings and for the time and supervision they give to details.

One year ago Mr. Alexander G. Tyng, who had served faithfully for nine years as a Director, and this year Mr. John E. Keene, who had served with equal faithfulness for twelve years, thought they had done their share of work in this line for the city and declined reappointment.

We shall miss them.

Their places have been filled by the Mayor by the appointment last year of Mr. S. P. Prowse in place of Mr. Tyng and this year by the appointment of Mr. William T. Irwin in place of Mr. Keene.

We welcome them heartily.

To our daily newspapers we owe thanks for numerous friendly notices and for lists of new books.

With thanks to each of my assistants in all departments and to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors,

I am, respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1911-1912.

Receipts.

From city appropriation.....	\$23,155.47	
Cash on hand June 1, 1911.....	19.66	
Bal. in Bank June 1, 1911.....	403.37	
Fines	1,054.18	
Books sold.....	1.92	
Books damaged.....	4.25	
Books lost.....	20.56	
Extra books loaned.....	56.05	
Duplicate cards issued.....	17.55	
Reserve postal cards.....	20.00	
Memberships	18.50	
Catalogues sold.....	4.85	
Waste Paper sold.....	6.50	
Balance from Carnegie fund.....	88.65	\$24,871.51

Expenditures.

Books	\$ 5,192.94	
Periodicals	880.04	
Stationery	473.21	
Salaries	9,476.68	
Janitor service.....	1,825.95	
Binding labor.....	2,500.38	
Binding materials.....	311.49	
Fuel	667.70	
Expense	1,264.28	
Insurance	285.00	
Furniture and fixtures.....	73.08	
Improvement	974.51	
Amount transferred from Bank to City Treasury.	643.05	
Contingent fund on hand.....	262.26	
Cash on hand.....	40.94	\$24,871.51

Membership.

Memberships in force June 1, 1911.....	9,595
Memberships issued during the year good for two years.....	4,877
Total	14,472
Memberships expired during the year.....	5,002
Memberships in force June 1, 1912.....	9,470

Contents of Library.

June 1, 1911—		
Books in circulation.....	106,976 vols.	
Duplicates not in circulation		2,321 vols.
Pamphlets (estimated)....		16,676 vols.
Losses—		
Lost and paid for.....	30 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn..	2,267 vols.	
Total losses.....	2,297 vols.	
	104,679 vols.	

Additions—

By purchase.....	4,966 vols.
By donations.....	807 vols.
By periodicals bound.....	327 vols.

Total additions.....	6,100 vols.
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Total books in circulation..		110,779 vols.
Duplicates not in use.....	2,349 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated)....	18,982 vols.	21,331 vols.

Total contents May 31, 1912		132,110 vols.
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**Number of Periodicals Taken and Always Accessible in the
Reading Room.**

Dailies	17
Weeklies	49
Bi-weeklies	7
Monthlies	173
Bi-monthlies	14
Quarterlies	39

299

Duplicates in circulation.....	28
Duplicates not in circulation.....	6
Duplicates sent to branch library.....	24

Total 357

Volumes and Percentage of Issues from Each Class.

	1911-1912	Per Cent.
Philosophy	1,782	.84
Theology	2,118	.99
Social science.....	2,271	1.06
Natural sciences and useful arts.....	9,766	4.58
Fine arts, poetry and music.....	4,136	1.94
Fiction	117,205	54.94
Juvenile fiction.....	45,904	21.52
Literary miscellany.....	6,922	3.24
History and travel.....	14,301	6.70
Cyclopedias and periodicals.....	8,946	4.19

Total 213,351 100.00

Of the above were issued at main desk.....	127,150
Of the above were issued from children's room.....	42,761
Of the above were issued from branch libraries and schools....	43,440

Total 213,351

Number of fine notices sent.....	6,660
Number of notices for books reserved.....	3,340

Issued from Children's Room.

Religion	256
Science	3,033
Literature	2,551
Travel	2,351
History	1,369
Biography	954
Fiction	31,812
Periodicals	360
German books.....	75
Total	42,761

Character of Additions.

English	5,871
German	211
French	2
Spanish	1
Greek	1
Vocal and instrumental music.....	14
Total	6,100
Purchased	4,966
Donations	807
Periodicals bound.....	327
Total	6,100

Bindery.

New books bound.....	425
Newspapers bound.....	48
Books rebound.....	3,506
Books repaired.....	1,932
By Desk Assistant.....	2,006
Portfolios made.....	74
Total	7,991
32° 24° 16° 12° 8° 4° f°	
3 38 607 2,706 425 68 132	3,979
Portfolios and books repaired, misc. sizes.....	4,012
Total	7,991
Current magazines covered.....	661
Members' cards folded and pasted.....	8,200

Issued from Branch and School Libraries.

	Lincoln Branch	Washington Branch	Harrison	Whittier	Loucks	Franklin	Total
Science, art, religion	2,679	13	216	61	181		3,150
Fiction, fairy tales	27,552	274	1,238	1,044	509	21	30,638
Literature	1,514	13	28	64	115	2	1,736
History, biography	6,157	48	797	575	333	6	7,916
Total	37,902	348	2,279	1,744	1,138	29	43,440

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1911, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents May 31, 1912:

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1911	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1911-1912	Total volumes in Library May 31, 1912	
						No.	Per cent.
Philosophy	1,764		3	1,761	74	1,835	1.66
Theology	4,081		3	4,078	139	4,237	3.82
Social and political science	14,171	1	10	14,160	644	14,804	13.36
Natural sciences and useful arts	12,387	2	9	12,376	466	12,842	11.59
Fine arts and poetry	6,059		8	6,051	230	6,281	5.67
Vocal and instrumental music	795	1	4	790	14	804	.73
Fiction	18,026	14	965	17,047	1,947	18,994	17.15
Juvenile literature	13,932	12	1,175	12,745	1,479	14,224	12.84
Literary miscellany	7,889		16	7,873	257	8,130	7.34
History and travel	18,048		13	18,035	506	18,541	16.74
Cyclopaedias and periodicals	9,824		61	9,763	324	10,078	9.10
Total	106,976	30	2,267	104,679	6,100	110,779	100.00

**Expenditures for the Lincoln Branch from its Opening, July 1, 1911,
to May 31, 1912, 11 months.**

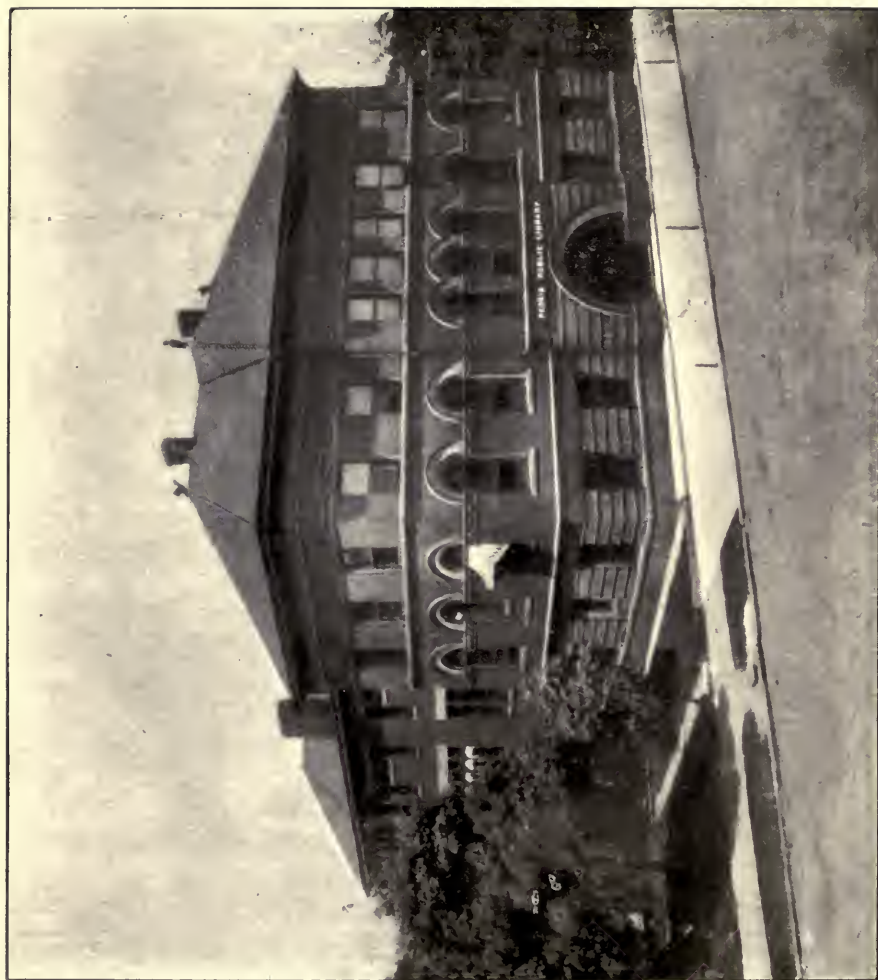
Books	\$ 562.40
Periodicals	69.25
Expense	115.53
Improvement	78.13
Insurance	285.00
Furniture and fixtures.....	4.75
Salaries	536.50
Janitor service.....	495.00
Fuel	123.02
Binding (estimated).....	215.00
Total	\$2,484.58

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
County of Peoria. } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of June, A. D.
1912.

EMMA DONNELLY, Notary Public.



PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE
THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
AND THE
Fifty-Sixth Annual Report since its Organization
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31st, 1913

PRINTED BY
THE DUROC PRESS
424 FULTON STREET
PEORIA, ILL.

DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.

John S. Lee.....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer	1880 " date
Henry Ullman	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold	1884 " 1896
Robert Grier	1884 " 1908
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " 1904
Dan F. Raum.....	1886 " 1889
Thos. F. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " 1902
Frank Meyer	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead.....	1897 " 1900
James P. Nailon.....	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington.....	1898 " 1904
Max Newman	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1899 " 1902
John E. Keene.....	1900 " 1912
James M. Quinn.....	1900 " 1910
Alexander G. Tyng.....	1902 " 1911
Frank J. Quinn.....	1902 " 1908
John Birks	1904 " 1907
Alexander Glass	1904 " 1905
C. R. Vandervort.....	1905 " 1907
Peter Casey	1907 " 1910
Robert W. Anderson.....	1907 " 1910
Henry M. Pindell.....	1908
Zachariah P. Siebrecht.....	1908
Wm. G. Olwin.....	1910
Eugene F. Baldwin.....	1910
S. P. Prowse.....	1910
B. G. Carpenter.....	1911
Wm. T. Irwin.....	1912

Population of Peoria, U. S. Census 1910.....66,950

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1913-1914.

Henry M. Pindell, Journal Office.....	Term expires	1914
Zachariah P. Siebrecht, Star Office.....	" "	1914
B. G. Carpenter, 400 N. Glen Oak Ave.....	" "	1914
Thomas M. McIlvaine, 516 Main St.....	" "	1915
Wm. T. Irwin, Jefferson Building.....	" "	1915
S. P. Prowse, Government Building.....	" "	1915
Bernard Cremer, Peoria Demokrat.....	" "	1916
Wm. G. Olwin, 113-119 Eaton St.....	" "	1916
E. F. Baldwin, Star Office.....	" "	1916

OFFICERS.

Eugene F. Baldwin.....	President
Wm. G. Olwin.....	Vice-President
S. P. Prowse.....	Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Olwin, Siebrecht, Prowse.
Books—Cremer, Carpenter, Irwin.
Executive—McIlvaine, Pindell, Baldwin, (ex-officio).

LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. Willcox, Librarian.

Anna L. Archer, Cataloguer and Assistant Librarian.

Louise L. Booth, Reference Department.

Fannie Mayo Seabury, Children's Room.

Helen M. Ballard	Visa B. Wheeler
Margaret M. McIlvaine.	Louise I. Fisher
Dallas R. Sweney	Louise Boyd (a)
Nella B. Beeson	Esther M. Graydon (a)
Lucy E. Huggins	Elmo Kuecks (a)

Evening Attendant—Alfred Corsten.

Lincoln Branch—Jane Anderson.

Janitor—Cyrus E. Entwistle.

Washington Branch—Helena Taylor.

In the Bindery

Richard J. Cross,	Daisy Wetzler,
Rachel Garrabrant,	Myrtle Eichhorn,
Elizabeth McMullen.	

Engineer—Chas. A. McMullen.

Janitress—Mrs. Mary Fogle, Mrs. Mary O'Brien.

The Library is open for delivery of books, except Sundays and holidays, from 9 a. m. until 8 p. m.; on Saturdays until 8:30 p. m.

Reading room open from 9 a. m. until 9 p. m.; on Sundays (July and August excepted), from 2 p. m. until 6 p. m.

Children's room open from 12 to 1; from 3 to 6.

Saturdays and vacations, 9 to 6.

(a) Occasional.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Peoria.

I submit herewith the report of Mr. E. S. Willecox, librarian, of the condition of the Peoria Public Library during the last fiscal year. As will be seen no great changes have occurred. The membership is substantially as it was. The books are in fair condition. We made some improvements during the last year under the direction of the chairman of the committee, Dr. McIlvaine, so that the lighting is now all that can be desired. The same care has been exercised in keeping the building in repair. For the full details I refer you to the report of the librarian herein enclosed.

E. F. BALDWIN, President.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.

Gentlemen: Following is the report of the Peoria Public Library for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1913—the thirty-third annual report of the free public library and the fifty-sixth annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in 1855.

Detailed statistics will be found at the end.

Membership.

Our membership, renewed every two years, and, therefore, an active membership, was, one year ago 9,470 and is now 9,503, about one in seven of our population.

Circulation.

Our total home circulation for the year was 216,448 volumes as follows:

Neighborhood House and Schools.....	5,640
Lincoln Branch	37,289
Children's Room	41,441
Main Library	132,078
Total	216,448

or more than three volumes to each of our population.

Contents of the Library.

One year ago our library contained of books in

circulation	110,779	
Discarded, lost and paid for.....	1,584	109,195
Added during the year, by purchase.....	4,420	
Added during the year, by gift.....	533	
Periodicals bound	247	5,200
Total number in circulation.....		114,395
Duplicates not in use.....	2,374	
Pamphlets, estimated	21,756	24,130
Total contents.....		138,525

The regular daily routine of work in a great library shows little change from year to year. The same happy family of faithful, trained assistants have been with us as last year. There has been no friction between them as fellow workers, only the most friendly help for each other and the most prompt and obliging

waiting on the public, and always, over all, a welcoming atmosphere prevailing.

Cataloguing.

This is, without doubt, one of the hardest worked departments of a library, requiring long experience, accurate knowledge and close application.

Of the 5,200 new volumes added to our collection during the year each one has to be carefully examined as to the author, subject, contents, assigned to its proper class in history, travel, science, art, fiction, etc., then catalogue cards carefully prepared, some 39,000 for the lot for our catalogue drawers, card pockets filled out, pasted in and neatly stamped in four or five places showing the library ownership, serial number, class and date of purchase. All this demands the most careful attention which only the long experience and thorough business habits of our cataloguer and her one trained assistant could accomplish so well.

Reference Work.

This has also grown to be one of the most important functions of a large library. The number of inquiries on all manner of subjects, from all kinds of people both in our own city and from adjoining towns, that have to be answered in the course of a year has grown to be enormous. And that is what we are here for.

Periodicals.

Of these, dailies, weeklies, monthlies and quarterlies in English, German, and French, we take 323 with many duplicates for issuing.

The proper looking after them as received, preparing them for use in portfolios and assigning them to their locations in the reading room, then carefully gathering the completed volumes for binding is no light task for one of our most experienced assistants, one, too, familiar with the languages.

The Desk Assistants.

These are the ones our public see the most of, and of them it may well be said, "They also serve who only stand and wait" behind the desk, quick to catch a request, still quicker to disappear in the forest of books behind them and bring it back for the waiting patron.

They have to know what books we have on those seriesed rows of shelves, exactly where to put their fingers on them and a fair general knowledge of their contents.

And they receive as they deserve all praise from our friends for the intelligent and obliging way they have.





The Children's Room.

From the patronage it receives continues to be one of the most attractive and useful departments of our library. It is a great responsibility that rests on the librarian and her assistant there in directing and advising with our younger generation in their choice of reading, and it is well done.

The number of books issued by them for home use during the year, was 41,441 volumes.

The Lincoln Branch.

The same may be said of this branch in its beautiful building at the lower end of our city, under the same librarian as before. The issues for home use for the year were 37,289 volumes and as a reading room with daily papers and popular periodicals it is well patronized by grown people.

OUR BINDERY.

This is a very necessary and useful part of our equipment, and our foreman, with many years of experience in library work, and with three or four experienced assistants, does the most thorough work possible both in binding new books and magazines and in rebinding old ones.

Improvements.

The most important improvement during the year has been the putting in of an altogether new and better system of electric lighting in our stack room, done by the Crawley Electric Company at a cost of \$791.75 for the wiring and by the Central Electric Company at a cost of \$127.60 for the lamps, and also the relighting of the Children's Room and over the main delivery desk by the Lackey Company at a cost of \$105.40.

A like improvement in the lighting of our reading room is now under way.

Valuable Purchases.

New practical reference library. 6 vols.
Aiton's encyclopedia. 5 vols.
New International encyclopedia. 21 vols.
University Musical encyclopedia. 10 vols.
Standard encyclopedia. 25 vols.
International library of technology. 40 vols.
Foundation library. 11 vols.
Johnson, ed. Authors digest. 20 vols.
United States Catalogue, books in print Jan. 1, 1912.
Harvard classics. 50 vols.
Johnson ed. Great events by famous historians. 20 vols.

- Mawson. Standard Thesaurus.
Macfall. History of painting. 8 vols.
Miller, ed. Classics: Greek and Latin. 15 vols.
Johnson and Buel. Battles and leaders of the civil war. Grant-Lee ed. 8 vols.
Fairbairn's Crests.
Mackenzie. Colonial families of the United States. 3 vols.
Currey. Chicago, its history and its builders. 5 vols.
Wiley and Rines. United States. 10 vols. with portfolio of steel engravings of the Presidents.
Wolff. Cent Chefs d'Oeuvre. Plates.
Joyce and Thomas. Women of all nations. 2 vols.
Fenollosa. Epochs of Chinese and Japanese art. 2 vols.
Chamberlain and Salisbury. Geology. 3 vols.
Perry. History of Knox county. 2 vols.
Rice. Peoria, city and county. 2 vols.
Wordsworth. Complete poetical works. Grasmere ed. 10 vols.
Scott. Works. Caledonian ed. 24 vols.
Ibsen. Works. Viking ed. 13 vols.
Balzac. Works. University ed. 18 vols.
Abridged agricultural records of the U. S. and Canada. 7 vols.
United States, Department of Agriculture, Farmers' bulletins, bound in 20 vols.

For the Children's Room.

- Hall and Wood. Bible story. 5 vols.
Shinn and Abbott. Guide to systematic use of North American bird and nature study with chart.

Valuable Gifts.

From the estates of three former well known and honored citizens—each one a civil war veteran—our library has been made the beneficiary of many valuable books and pamphlets.

From the estate of General John G. Ballance 100 bound volumes including Lossing's "Our Country," 3 volumes, Heitman's Historical History and Registry, Dictionary of the U. S. Army, Velasquez's Spanish Dictionary, and many pamphlets.

From the estate of Mr. Lem Wiley, 30 bound volumes, including Yonge, Popular History of Great Nations, 2 volumes, History of Free Masonry, 2 volumes, The Soldier in Our Country, 2 volumes, Lossing's "Our Country," 3 volumes, and others.

From the estate of Henry Seed, 40 bound volumes and many pamphlets.

Owing to the pressure of other work the cataloguing of these gifts has been delayed.

Books Discarded.

Of the 1,553 volumes worn out and discarded, some were given to the Proctor Endowment, some to the Home for the Friendless, and some to the Work House with instructions how to mend them up for a little longer use, while many were entirely past help.

Function of the Public Library.

To tax the property of a city for the support of a free, public library finds its justification in the fact that it is the most efficient instrument we know of for the diffusion of general intelligence among the people, for supplying entertaining and instructive reading to everybody, to busy men and women and to our young people who might otherwise go through life in ignorance of what is going on in the world around them, of what was said and done by men and women who, a hundred, a thousand years ago, had the same burdens to bear, the same questions to answer and the same battles to fight that we have to-day.

Compare the nations that read with those that do not, England with Russia, the United States with Spain or Turkey to learn why free institutions flourish in the former and despotism resting on ignorance prevails in the latter.

A public library is a great receiving and distributing warehouse, not of food and raiment for our bodily wants, but of something far better, that nourishes, animates and adorns the soul—a treasure house where are gathered, preserved and again distributed the priceless accumulation of all human experience, the wisdom of the ages, the story of all that our race has done and suffered in its toilsome progress upward from the darkness of the past into the effulgent light of this our day.

It draws to its inviting doors not only cultured men and women seeking more knowledge but, no less, thousands, both old and young, seeking entertainment who might, unfamiliar with books, waste their hours in idleness on the streets or in wicked dissipation. Its object is to entertain, to instruct, to educate and to elevate everybody, without money and without price.

If our home circulation last year of only 216,448 volumes, of which 163,322 were fiction and juveniles—the usual average in other libraries—is not as large as we should like to see, we need not be surprised. There were, at the same time, issued to our people 53,126 volumes of philosophy, theology, social science, natural science and useful arts, fine arts, poetry, music, history, biography, travels, etc. And we must not forget that a wholesome story, a work of the imagination, even if it be a little weak and watery to our taste, may give not only entertainment, may even

bring a gleam of sunshine, some thrill of hope or human sympathy into the humdrum life of many a tired housekeeper.

And as to the juveniles—books throw the whole world wide open to the eager child.

A bright, healthy boy will ask more questions before he has finished his seventh year than in all the rest of his life together—almost.

I happen to know a grandfather now half driven to distraction every day by just such a boy.

It is, therefore, no small responsibility the librarian has to bear in making a wise use of the funds at his disposal.

Very few libraries can afford to buy all the books or even a large proportion of those attractively advertised by publishers. The daily question is, what is most desirable for this library, its present and its future needs, and what can we afford to buy.

And, making due allowance for the hobbies of his friends, the librarian cannot afford to ride any hobbies of his own. The whole field of human inquiry, for to-morrow as well as for to-day, claims his attention.

He must have on his shelves as far as his means allow, at least a little of the latest and best on every important question of the day.

The preacher in the pulpit has no more solemn responsibility resting on him than has the librarian, in selecting useful and wholesome reading for his public.

It is to the public schools, the public libraries and the churches that we must look for the steady uplifting of the human race.

To our daily newspapers we owe thanks for numerous friendly notices and for lists of new books.

With thanks to each of my assistants in all departments and to you gentlemen of the Board of Directors, I am,

Respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
County of Peoria. } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of June, A. D. 1913.

EMMA DONNELLY, Notary Public.

(Seal)

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1912-1913.**Receipts.**

From city appropriation.....	\$24,801.13	
Cash on hand June 1, 1912.....	40.94	
Fines	1,070.28	
Books damaged	1.95	
Books lost	21.58	
Extra books loaned.....	56.10	
Duplicate cards issued.....	18.00	
Reserve postal cards.....	45.00	
Memberships	18.00	
Catalogues sold	4.70	
Waste paper sold.....	13.75	
Rent from School Board.....	70.00	\$26,161.43

Expenditures.

Books	\$ 4,977.57	
Periodicals	851.37	
Stationery	463.50	
Salaries	10,318.64	
Janitor service.....	1,969.40	
Bindery wages.....	2,426.34	
Bindery materials.....	274.96	
Bindery tools.....	80.40	
Binding (outside building).....	309.02	
Fuel	563.02	
Expense	1,110.48	
Furniture and fixtures.....	63.70	
Improvement	1,369.18	
Desk and other receipts deposited with City Treasurer	1,319.36	
Cash on hand May 31, 1913.....	64.42	\$26,161.43

Expenditures for the Lincoln Branch, June 1, 1912-May 31, 1913.

Books	\$ 222.89
Periodicals	54.38
Expense	36.95
Improvement	119.43
Salaries	652.50
Janitor service.....	660.00
Fuel	93.96
Binding (estimated).....	283.30
	<u>\$2,123.41</u>

Membership.

Memberships in force June 1, 1912.....	9,470
Memberships issued during the year good for two years.....	4,628
Total	<u>14,098</u>
Memberships expired during the year.....	4,595
Memberships in force June 1, 1913.....	<u>9,503</u>

Contents of Library.

June 1, 1912—

Books in circulation.....	110,779 vols.	
Duplicates not in circulation.....		2,349 vols.
Pamphlets (estimated)		18,982 vols.
Losses—		
Lost and paid for.....	31 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn...1,553 vols.		
Total losses	1,584 vols.	
		109,195 vols.
Additions—		
By purchase	4,420 vols.	
By donations	533 vols.	
By periodicals bound.....	247 vols.	
Total additions	5,200 vols.	
Total books in circulation...		114,395 vols.
Duplicates not in use.....	2,374 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated)	21,756 vols.	24,130 vols.
Total contents May 31, 1913		138,525 vols.

Character of Additions.

English	5,106
German	58
French	4
Vocal and instrumental music.....	32
Total	5,200
Purchased	4,420
Donations	533
Periodicals bound	247
Total	5,200

Number of Periodicals Taken and Always Accessible in the Reading Room.

Dailies	19
Weeklies	54
Bi-weeklies	7
Monthlies	181
Bi-monthlies	15
Quarterlies	47
	323
Duplicates in circulation.....	29
Duplicates not in circulation.....	8
Duplicates sent to branch library.....	28
Total	388

Volumes and Percentage of Issues from Each Class.

	1912-1913	Per Cent.
Philosophy	2,189	1.01
Theology	2,341	1.08
Social Science	2,709	1.25
Natural Sciences and useful arts.....	9,475	4.38
Fine arts, poetry and music.....	4,671	2.16
Fiction	119,316	55.13
Juvenile fiction	44,006	20.33
Literary miscellany	7,585	3.50
History and travel.....	14,917	6.89
Cyclopedias and periodicals.....	9,239	4.27
Total	216,448	100.00
Of the above were issued at main desk.....	132,078	
Of the above were issued from children's room.....	41,441	
Of the above were issued from Lincoln Branch.....	37,289	
Of the above were issued from Washington Branch and schools.	5,640	
Total	216,448	
Number of fine notices sent.....	6,703	
Number of notices for books reserved.....	3,037	

Issued from Children's Room.

Religion	264
Science	2,780
Literature	2,995
Travel	2,120
History	1,503
Biography	1,142
Fiction	30,183
Periodicals	313
German books	141
Total	41,441

Bindery.

New books bound.....	528
Newspapers bound	29
Books rebound	3,597
Books repaired	91
By Desk Assistant.....	2,639
Portfolios made	69
Total	6,953
32° 24° 16° 12° 8° 4° 1°	
15 34 570 2,498 795 145 97	4,154
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes.....	2,799
	6,953
Current magazines covered.....	658
Members' cards folded and pasted.....	16,285

Issued from Branch and School Libraries.

	Lincoln Branch	Washington Branch	Douglas	Whittier	Harrison	Loucks	Franklin	Total
Science, art, religion	2,717	8	137	23	42	108	4	3,039
Fiction, fairy tales	26,987	758	513	998	330	319	10	29,915
Literature	1,250	11	573	27	11	143		2,015
History, biography	6,335	96	586	321	378	161	83	7,960
Total	37,289	873	1,809	1,369	761	731	97	42,929

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1912, the total losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents May 31, 1913:

	Total vols. in library May 31, 1912	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. vols. added 1912-1913	Total volumes in library May 31, 1913	
						No.	Per cent.
Philosophy	1,835		1	1,834	95	1,929	1.69
Theology	4,237		1	4,236	132	4,368	3.82
Social and political science	14,804		4	14,800	695	15,495	13.54
Natural sciences and useful arts	12,842		9	12,833	588	13,421	11.73
Fine arts and poetry	6,281	1	5	6,275	206	6,541	5.72
Vocal and instrumental music	804		2	802	32	834	.73
Fiction	18,994	18	638	18,338	1,459	19,797	17.31
Juvenile literature	14,224	12	849	13,363	891	14,254	12.46
Literary miscellany	8,130		7	8,123	333	8,456	7.39
History and travel	18,541		11	18,530	482	19,012	16.62
Cyclopaedias and periodicals	10,087		26	10,061	227	10,288	8.99
Total	110,779	31	1,553	109,195	5,200	114,395	100.00







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